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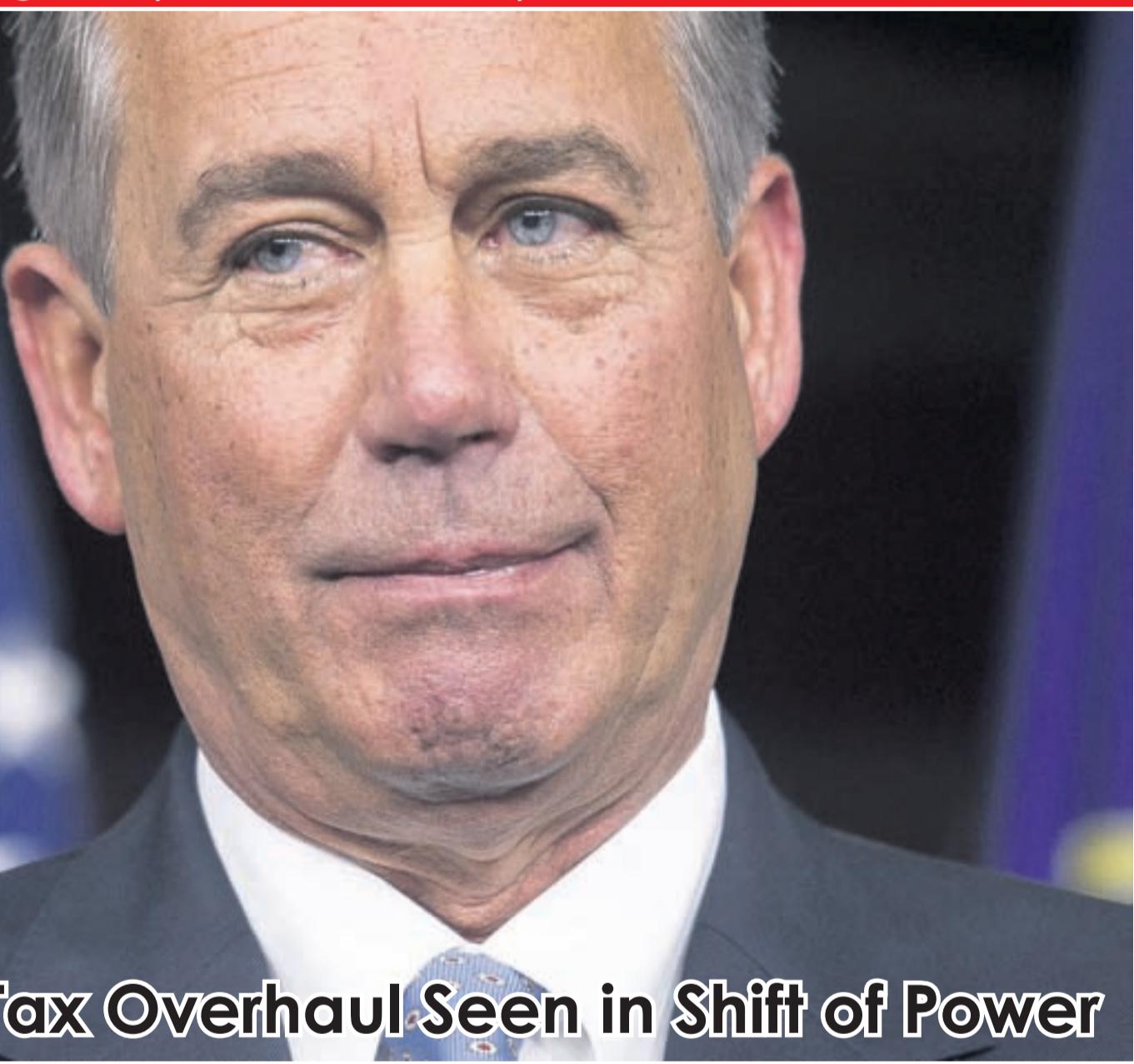
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Aruba **TODAY**

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Friday, November 7, 2014

Seeking Common Ground



Chance for Tax Overhaul Seen in Shift of Power

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio listens during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. Fiscal and economic policy was brought back to center stage by the wave of Republican victories on Election Day, with both President Barack Obama and GOP congressional leaders expressing hope that budget deals can be reached.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

JONATHAN WEISMAN

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WASHINGTON - After years of clashes and a grudging

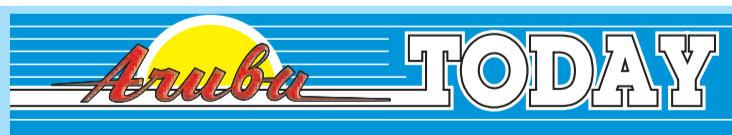
truce, fiscal and economic policy was brought back to center stage by the wave of Republican electoral

victories Tuesday, with both President Barack Obama and the new congressional leadership expressing hope

that they could reach deals to simplify the United States' tax code, promote more favorable trade and

largely eliminate the budget deficit.

Continued on page 4



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Beijing wants APEC to push Chinese trade pact

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to use a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders to promote a regional trade initiative at a time when progress on a rival U.S.-led trade deal has stalled, injecting a note of rivalry into an annual summit that aims for consensus.

The two-day meeting of 21 countries including the United States, Japan and South Korea is the first major international gathering

initiative comes as Beijing tries to claim a bigger role in U.S.-dominated global trade, security and financial structures.

Last month, China and 20 other Asian nations launched a bank to pay for roads and other infrastructure, despite U.S. objections it is an unneeded rival to the World Bank. Beijing is providing most of the \$50 billion in startup capital.

In May, Xi called for the creation of a new Asian

in the region, from Australia to South Korea. Such countries want to promote commercial ties but are uneasy about Beijing's strategic ambitions, especially at a time when it is embroiled in territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea and with Vietnam and other Southeast Asian neighbors in the South China Sea.

The United States and some other governments believe China's trade initiative is at too early a stage to take

property and set standards for state-owned industries. For now, the talks exclude China, despite its status as the world's biggest exporter.

Governments involved in the U.S.-led trade pact plan to meet to discuss it during APEC, according to Groser.

The agreement was proposed by Chile, New Zealand and Singapore in 2002 but Washington has taken the lead in promoting it since joining the talks



A worker assembles a car at a factory for Chinese automaker BAIC Motor in Beijing Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. China plans to use the meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders to promote a regional trade initiative at a time when progress on a rival U.S.-led trade deal has stalled, injecting a note of rivalry into an annual summit that aims for consensus. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

in China since President Xi Jinping came to power. Starting Monday, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting gives China, the world's second-largest economy, a platform to assert itself as a regional leader.

The proposal promoted by China, the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific, is part of an agenda that also includes talks on cooperation in environmental protection, energy efficiency and urbanization.

"We will reach important consensus" on the launch of the free trade process, said Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a news conference ahead of the gathering.

China's campaign for the

structure for security cooperation based on a 24-nation group that excludes the United States.

Beijing worries Washington is pursuing a "strategy of containment" against China and sees a China-led trade pact as a way to gain influence, said Chen Bo, a trade specialist at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

"China doesn't want to be led by the nose by the U.S.," said Bo. "The more they have in hand, the better their negotiating ability will be. Then people will want to join China, instead of China joining other countries."

China is the top trading partner for most countries

up at APEC and will be a distraction, said New Zealand's trade minister, Tim Groser. But he said the proposal is the "big, sexy, formal centerpiece" of next week's meeting.

"China is the host, and a great power, and so we have to find something that's acceptable to China as well as the U.S.," said Groser in an interview.

Washington is promoting the Trans-Pacific Partnership in talks with 12 Asian-Pacific countries including Japan, Canada, Australia and Mexico. Few details have been released, but promoters say it would cut tariffs, open up trade in farm goods, strengthen protection of intellectual

in 2008. The governments missed a 2012 deadline and negotiations have stalled over objections to its proposed sweeping changes.

Japan is reluctant to open markets for autos and farm goods. Its trade minister, Akira Amari, said last month he saw "no prospect for an agreement on market access." South Korea is mulling whether to join the talks, which is making its farmers uneasy.

Non-governmental groups worry longer periods of patent protection sought by U.S. pharmaceutical companies might hurt poor countries such as Vietnam by slowing the release of lower-cost generic drugs. □

ECB signals more action to refuel Europe economy

JACK EWING

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FRANKFURT, Germany — The European Central Bank on Thursday moved closer to the same kind of large-scale purchases of government bonds used by the Federal Reserve to stimulate growth in the United States, implying that it was ready to pump as much as 1 trillion euros into the economy.

"This is the main message: The balance sheet will continue to expand," Mario Draghi, the president of the central bank, said at a news conference. He added that if current measures, including purchases of private sector assets, did not do the job, the central bank was ready to go further. European stock indexes rose as investors interpreted the remarks to mean that the central bank was moving closer to quantitative easing, or QE, the large-scale buying of government bonds, which is also known as sovereign debt.

"We're one step closer to full-blown sovereign QE," Luke Bartholomew, investment manager at Aberdeen Asset Management, said in a statement.

The bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged Thursday, at 0.05 percent. The announcement was a formality because the rate is already effectively as low as it can go, and an increase would be out of the question when eurozone growth is slowing.

At the news briefing, Draghi said that the bank's governing council had charged the central bank staff and "the relevant Eurosystem committees with ensuring the timely preparation of further measures to be implemented, if needed."

Draghi also sought to rebut reports of dissension among the 24 members of the central bank's governing council, which includes all the heads of national central banks in the eurozone. He emphasized that all members had signed off on a statement implying increased readiness to deploy quantitative easing. □

Obama writes rare letter to Iran's supreme leader

MATTHEW LEE

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a rare outreach to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Barack Obama has written a letter about the fight against Islamic State militants, a common enemy in Syria and Iraq, according to diplomatic sources. The U.S. and Iran are each engaged in military efforts to degrade the Islamic State group, essentially putting the longtime foes on the same side in the campaign against the extremists. However, the Obama administration has repeatedly insisted that it is not coordinating and will not coordinate its military actions with Iran, though officials from both countries have discussed the matter more broadly.

Obama's letter to Iran's powerful religious leader comes against the backdrop of the looming Nov. 24 deadline in nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and Iran, as well as five other world powers. While Obama has previously sent letters to Khamenei, any communication between the two men has been extremely rare.

The Wall Street Journal, which first reported that Obama had sent the letter, said it described a shared interest between the U.S. and Iran in fighting Islamic State militants and stressed that any cooperation on that would be largely contingent on Iran agreeing to the nuclear deal. However, while not confirming nor denying the existence of the letter, administration officials said there were still no plans to cooperate or coordinate with Iran against the militants.

"The United States will not cooperate militarily with Iran in that effort," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. "We won't share intelligence with them."

Diplomatic sources separately confirmed the existence of the letter to The Associated Press. They did so on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss Obama's outreach. Obama authorized a U.S.-led air campaign against Islamic State fighters in Iraq in August and expanded the mission the following month to neighboring Syria. The U.S. is taking action alongside several other nations, including a handful of regional partners.

Iran is not part of the U.S. coalition, but it has also been fighting the Islamic State group on the ground. However, Iran's interests in pursuing the Islamic State's defeat differ from those of the Obama administration. Iran is a staunch supporter of Syrian President Bashar Assad, who is a target of the militants and opposed by the U.S.

Two chief critics of Obama's foreign policy, Republican Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham, called it "outrageous" that Obama would seek to enlist Iran in its fight against IS given Iran's support for Assad and Shia extremists throughout the region.

"The consequences of this ill-conceived bargain would destroy the Syrians' last, best chance to live in freedom from the brutal Assad regime," the two senators said in a joint statement.

U.S. officials have not ruled out the possibility that a nuclear accord with Iran could open the door to discussions on other issues, but they have sought to keep the delicate negotiations focused solely on Tehran's disputed nuclear program. The U.S. and its negotiating partners say Iran is pursuing a bomb, while Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

The prospects for a final agreement remain uncertain, with Obama saying on Wednesday that the ability to secure a deal is an "open question." □

AP NewsBreak:

Jihadis taking cruise ships to Syria

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON/MONACO (AP)

Would-be jihadi fighters are increasingly booking tickets on cruise ships to join extremists in battle zones in Syria and Iraq, hoping to bypass stepped-up efforts to thwart them in neighboring Turkey, Interpol officials have told The Associated Press.

This is one of the reasons why the international police body is preparing to expand a pilot program

people might be involved, but called on countries to step up screening at all transportation hubs — "airports and, more and more, cruise lines."

Turkish authorities say they have set up teams to nab suspected foreign fighters in airports and bus stations, and have deported hundreds in recent months.

Pierre St. Hilaire, director of counterterrorism at Interpol, suggested that the Turkish crackdown has shown results in recent months, and so

data, we've realized that there are more and more reports that people are using cruise ships in order to get to launch pads, if you will — sort of closer to the conflict zones — of Syria and Iraq."

Cruise ships, which often make repeated stops, offer an added benefit by allowing would-be jihadis to hop off undetected at any number of ports — making efforts to track them more difficult.

St. Hilaire said it wasn't exactly clear yet how many



Interpol Secretary General Ronald K. Noble, addresses members during the 83rd Interpol General Assembly, at the Grimaldi Forum, in Monaco.

(AP Photo/Claude Paris)

known as I-Checkit, under which airlines bounce passenger information off Interpol's databases — in hopes that one day the system could expand to include cruise operators, banks, hotels and other private-sector partners.

Turkey, with its long and often porous border with Syria, has been a major thoroughfare for many of the thousands of foreign fighters seeking to join extremists like the Islamic State group, which has captured territory across Iraq and Syria.

Speaking in Monaco, where Interpol is holding its general assembly this week, outgoing chief Ronald Noble confirmed that Turkey was a destination, but declined to identify any others. He also refused to indicate how many

some would-be jihadis are making alternative travel plans.

"Because they know the airports are monitored more closely now, there's a use of cruise ships to travel to those areas," he told the AP on Thursday. "There is evidence that the individuals, especially in Europe, are traveling mostly to Izmit and other places to engage in this type of activity," he said, referring to a Turkish coastal town.

The phenomenon is relatively new, within the past three months or so, said other Interpol officials.

"Originally, our concern about people on cruise ships — dangerous people on cruise ships — really focused on the classic sort of rapist, burglar, or violent criminal," Noble said.

"But as we've gathered

would-be foreign fighters were traveling by cruise ship to reach Syria, and added that there were other options as well: to avoid passing through airports, some people have driven all the way from their homes in Europe to the Syrian border.

He was quick to caution that Europe is by no means the only or even the main source of foreign fighters for Syria.

"It's a global threat — 15,000 fighters or more from 81 countries traveling to one specific conflict zone," he said, noting that that there are some 300 from China alone. "In order to prevent their travel and identify them, there needs to be greater information-sharing among the region, among national security agencies." □

Chance for tax overhaul seen in shift of power

Continued from Front

The president and Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the presumptive next majority leader, immediately pointed to tax reform, international trade and budget policy as potential common ground for a divided government in Obama's final two years in office. On Thursday, Speak-

economy," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chairman of the Finance Committee, who will hand over his gavel to a Republican, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, in the next Congress. "Historically, Republicans have wanted efficiency. Democrats want fairness. I want both, and we're getting neither."

Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the Republicans' last

Alabama and Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, are expected to take over their chambers' budget committees. Both are considering turning to a parliamentary procedure called reconciliation to cut the costs of social programs like Medicare and ease the passage of a simplified tax code.

"Budgets matter," said Price, who is currently the

tax overhaul are matters that unite all wings of the Republican coalition, from the Tea Party right to the big-business center. They also have strong adherents among good-government advocates in the Democratic Party's center left. But there are deep policy differences between Republican leaders and the White House. Chris Krueger, a Washington policy analyst at Guggenheim Securities, told clients Thursday morning that he saw the chances of tax reform eroding, not improving, because professions of comity would soon be swamped by budget brinkmanship.

On Wednesday, after the president and McConnell raised the same areas of possible agreement, a House Republican tax aide said, "The press conferences make it sound a lot better than it is right now."

For Obama, the search for common ground on Republican turf is not new. "Grand bargain" budget talks have collapsed repeatedly. The Treasury Department proposed a detailed plan in 2012 to overhaul the corporate tax code broadly and bring down the corporate income tax rate to 28 percent from 35 percent. Obama then proposed a novel deal: Simplify the corporate tax code and allow multinational corporations a one-time low tax

rate to bring home billions of dollars in profits parked overseas, but use the windfall from that "tax holiday" for infrastructure spending. It did not happen. But on Tuesday, the incentives changed. Obama wants to rebound after Democrats' midterm-election drubbing. Republicans want to show themselves to be a governing party before the 2016 presidential campaign.

Wyden said he spoke with Hatch and McConnell on Wednesday about moving forward quickly. The issue of tax policy is likely to be raised at the White House on Friday, when congressional leaders from both parties meet with the president.

The rise of fiscal matters comes as their urgency actually recedes. The federal deficit fell to less than 2 percent of gross domestic product in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 - below the 40-year average. Economic growth, which both sides say a tax overhaul would help, was stronger over the last six months than in any similar stretch since 2002.

But Republican leaders do not see it that way.

"Tax reform is absolutely imperative to get this economy rolling," Price said.

Much of the foundation work is done. The Treasury's plan details just how many loopholes would have to be eliminated or curtailed to bring the corporate tax rate down to 28 percent, a level Republicans do not consider low enough. The retiring Ways and Means chairman, Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., produced an even broader proposal that would include individuals and small businesses, and that could form the basis of Ryan's plan.

It includes provisions that should have broad appeal among Democrats: a tax on large banks, a surtax on high-income individuals, and a narrower limit on deductions for large mortgages and retirement savings. It also includes a variant of Obama's infrastructure spending plan. □



Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) the presumptive next majority leader, greets a group from the McConnell Scholars Program at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, Nov. 5, 2014. Fiscal and economic policy was brought back to center stage by the wave of Republican electoral victories on Tuesday, with both President Barack Obama and the new congressional leadership expressing hope that budget deals can be reached.

(Todd Heisler/The New York Times)

er John Boehner, R-Ohio, listed a tax overhaul and the federal debt as the House's top two priorities. "We have this tax code that doesn't bring stability and certainty to the

vice-presidential nominee, will seek the House Ways and Means Committee chairmanship to pursue a broad overhaul of the tax code. And two conservatives, Sen. Jeff Sessions of

Budget Committee vice chairman, below Ryan. "The role of the federal government to get our fiscal house in order is important."

Fiscal responsibility and a

Republican leader warns Obama on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Republicans who swept midterm Congressional elections headed toward a showdown over immigration, with the leader of the House bluntly warning the president against taking sweeping action without congressional approval. "When you play with matches you take the risk of burning yourself," House Speaker John Boehner said at his first news conference after elections in which Republicans captured control of the Senate that

takes over in January and emerged with their largest majority in the House in at least 70 years.

"And he's going to burn himself if he continues to go down this path," Boehner said.

A day after Tuesday's election, Obama defiantly stood by his pledge to act on his own to reduce deportations, grant work permits and improve border security by the end of the year.

The president cast his executive actions as an inducement for Republicans to

pass their own bill to overhaul the country's broken immigration system.

The Senate's likely majority leader next year, Mitch McConnell, has said such a move would only complicate efforts to pass a bill.

Boehner made his comments one day before he and the other congressional leaders head to the White House for a lunch meeting with Obama. Even before the new Congress convenes, the outgoing one is scheduled to meet next week to wrap up busi-

ness left over from the past two years.

Sketching an early agenda for 2015, Boehner said the Congress that convenes in January hopes to pass legislation approving construction of the long-stalled Keystone XL pipeline planned to carry Canadian oil to the United States.

At the White House, spokesman Josh Earnest was equivocal about whether the president might sign a bill along those lines. "We'll consider any sort of proposals that are passed by Congress," he said. □



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Remains of missing Fox movie executive found

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The remains of a 20th Century Fox executive who mysteriously disappeared more than two years ago were found in a desert area, and police said Thursday they believe they know what led to his killing.

Gavin Smith, 57, was last seen May 1, 2012, in after leaving the home of a female friend in Ventura County in Southern California.

Hikers discovered the remains about 70 miles (112 kilometers) away in the Antelope Valley, on Oct. 26, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said. Results of an autopsy have not been finalized.

Smith was with Fox's movie distribution department for nearly 18 years and was a branch manager for several theaters. He was also a former UCLA basketball player and had three children.

Authorities said earlier they

had found Smith's Mercedes-Benz at a Simi Valley storage facility nine months after his disappearance. Its condition along with witness statements led them to believe Smith was killed.



This photo shows missing 20th Century Fox executive Gavin Smith who was last seen May 1, 2012. The Los Angeles County coroner's office confirmed early Thursday Nov. 6, 2014 that the remains of Gavin Smith have been positively identified.

(AP Photo/LACSD)

A law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation said Thursday the car contained Smith's

blood and body tissue, including skin stuck to a seat. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the case and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Sheriff's Lt. Dave Dolson said investigators are optimistic they will solve the case.

"We believe we know what happened" and why, he said without elaboration.

Dolson said the remains were crucial to the case and were found in an area where investigators believed they would be located.

Forensic examination of the remains may help provide critical details that help detectives fill in the blanks and strengthen their case, said Capt. Rod Kusch.

A previous search had been unsuccessful, and authorities discouraged Smith's family and friends from conducting a search for him for their own safety, Dolson said.

The storage facility where

Smith's car was found was linked to John Creech, a man who is serving an eight-year prison sentence for sales or transport of narcotics, Dolson said previously. Creech was named a person of interest but has not been charged with Smith's killing.

Police have said Smith had "some kind of relationship" with Creech's wife, Chandrika, after meeting her in

drug rehabilitation several years earlier.

Dolson declined to provide details.

The official who spoke anonymously said the relationship was believed to be romantic.

Investigators served dozens of search warrants mainly in locations around the San Fernando Valley and involving Creech's home and Hummer.

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Fannie, Freddie post profits as housing market recovers

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gov-

ernment-controlled mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac posted profits for the July-September period as the U.S. housing market continued to recover. Gains in recent years have enabled them to fully repay their government aid after being rescued during the financial crisis in 2008.

Fannie Mae reported Thursday that it earned \$3.9 billion in the third quarter. Washington-based Fannie will pay a dividend of \$4 billion to the U.S. Treasury next month. With its previous payments totaling \$134.5 billion, Fannie has more than fully repaid the \$116 billion it received from taxpayers.

Freddie Mac posted net income of \$2.1 billion for the latest quarter. Freddie, based in McLean, Virginia, will pay a \$2.8 billion dividend to the government. Freddie will have paid \$91 billion in dividends, exceeding its government bailout of \$71.3 billion.

Freddie had fully repaid as

of last year's third quarter, and Fannie as of the fourth quarter of 2013.

The government bailed out Fannie and Freddie at the height of the crisis in Sep-

billion.

The gradual recovery of the housing market has made Fannie and Freddie profitable again. Their repayments of the govern-

behind the rest of the economy. The market remains hampered by tight mortgage credit, rising home prices and stagnating incomes.

home loans.

The two companies don't directly make loans to borrowers. They buy mortgages from lenders, package them as bonds, guarantee them against default and sell them to investors. That helps make loans available.

The latest reports of profitable quarters for Fannie and Freddie came two days after midterm elections that throw control of the Senate to Republicans. The transfer of majority power in the Senate could affect work on legislation to phase out the two companies, and instead use mainly private insurers to backstop home loans.

Two key senators reached agreement in March on a bipartisan proposal that was endorsed by the Obama White House, but it has stalled in Congress.

The senators' plan would create a new government insurance fund. Investors would pay fees in exchange for insurance on mortgage securities they buy. The government would become a last-resort loan guarantor.

With the chairmanship and majority membership of the Senate Banking Committee expected to switch from Democrats to Republicans, lawmakers may end up reworking the proposal. President Barack Obama has proposed a broad overhaul of the U.S. mortgage finance system — including winding down Fannie and Freddie. The goal is to replace them with a system that would put the private sector, not the government, primarily at risk for the loans.

Last month, the head of the federal agency overseeing Fannie and Freddie announced an agreement between the companies and major banks that could expand lending. Mel Watt, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, said the deal clarifies conditions in which banks could be required to buy back mortgages they sell to Fannie and Freddie for misrepresenting the loans' risks. □



This photo shows the Freddie Mac corporate office in McLean, Va. Freddie Mac on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014 posted net income of \$2.1 billion for the July-through-September 2014 period. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

tember 2008 when both veered toward collapse after piling up losses on risky mortgages in the housing market bust. Together the companies received taxpayer aid totaling \$187.3

ment loans helped make last year's federal budget deficit the smallest in five years.

The market's revival beginning in 2012 has been fitful, and housing has lagged

Together Fannie and Freddie own or guarantee about half of all U.S. mortgages, worth about \$5 trillion. Along with other federal agencies, they back roughly 90 percent of new

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US Financial Front:

American productivity rises at 2 percent rate in 2Q



A welder helps to install an expansion joint on a steam pipe beneath a sidewalk in Philadelphia. The Labor Department released third-quarter productivity data on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. workers' productivity increased in the July-September period at a slower pace than in the previous quarter. Labor costs accelerated but still remained at an extremely low level. Productivity, the amount of output per hour of work,

rose at a 2 percent annual rate in the third quarter after a 2.9 percent gain in the second quarter, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

Labor costs rose at a slight 0.3 percent rate in the third quarter after having fallen at a 0.5 percent rate in the second quarter.

Greater productivity is the

key factor determining rising living standards. It enables companies to pay their workers more without having to increase prices. Even with the small acceleration in labor costs, they remain far below levels that would raise concerns about inflation.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon

Macroeconomics, said that the main message from the report was that productivity is accelerating while labor costs remain under control.

He said that productivity numbers have shown gains above 2 percent in four of the past five quarters with the first quarter's sharp decline a result of the severe winter weather that sent the economy into reverse in the first three months of this year. Discounting that drop, Shepherdson said, the economy is seeing "a notable pick-up in productivity growth."

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the third quarter, a solid performance that followed a 4.6 percent surge in the second quarter.

The GDP is the economy's total output of goods and services. Since output growth slowed in the third quarter, productivity slowed as well.

Over the past year, labor costs have risen 2.4 per-

cent, a modest increase that is below the long-run average of 2.8 percent annual gains. That suggests that wages and salaries are not rising fast enough to spur inflation.

The Federal Reserve keeps a close watch on productivity and labor costs for any signs that inflation may be accelerating.

Over the past year, productivity has increased by a modest 0.9 percent, well below the long-run average of 2.2 percent.

Productivity surged in 2009 and 2010 in the aftermath of the Great Recession. Companies cut jobs faster than their output was falling, driving productivity higher as fewer workers did more. Productivity grew 3.2 percent in 2009 and 3.3 percent in 2010.

But in the past three years, productivity growth has averaged just 1 percent per year as hiring has picked up. Economists are uncertain whether this is just a temporary slowdown or a new normal for the economy. □

Applications for US jobless aid drop slightly to 278,000

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer people applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, adding to signs that the job market should continue to improve.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications fell 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 278,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, declined 2,250 to 279,000, the lowest level in more than 14 years. Applications are a proxy for layoffs and have

retreated 18.5 percent in the past year. This suggests rising economic confidence among businesses, leading them to keep their workers and potentially look to hire more employees. The decline in applications has overlapped with stronger hiring this year. Employers have added an average of 227,000 jobs a month in 2014, up from an average of 194,000 last year. Over the past 12 months, they have added 2.64 million jobs, the best showing since April 2006. □

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Gleam is gone as gold prices sink to 4-year low

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nothing is going gold's way. Inflation remains tame, the dollar looks strong and Americans are increasingly confident. Even fears that the Federal Reserve would set off another financial crisis have faded as the central bank ends its effort to pump money into the economy.

In short, all of the reasons for buying gold over recent years have disappeared, helping to drive prices for the metal to a four-year low.

"I think the big reason gold has lost so much ground is because confidence is coming back," says Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management in Minneapolis. Last week, a measure of U.S. consumer confidence reached its highest level in seven years.

"If you're not as scared anymore, you might be fine putting some money in the stock market," Paulsen says. "It's all about fear turning to greed."

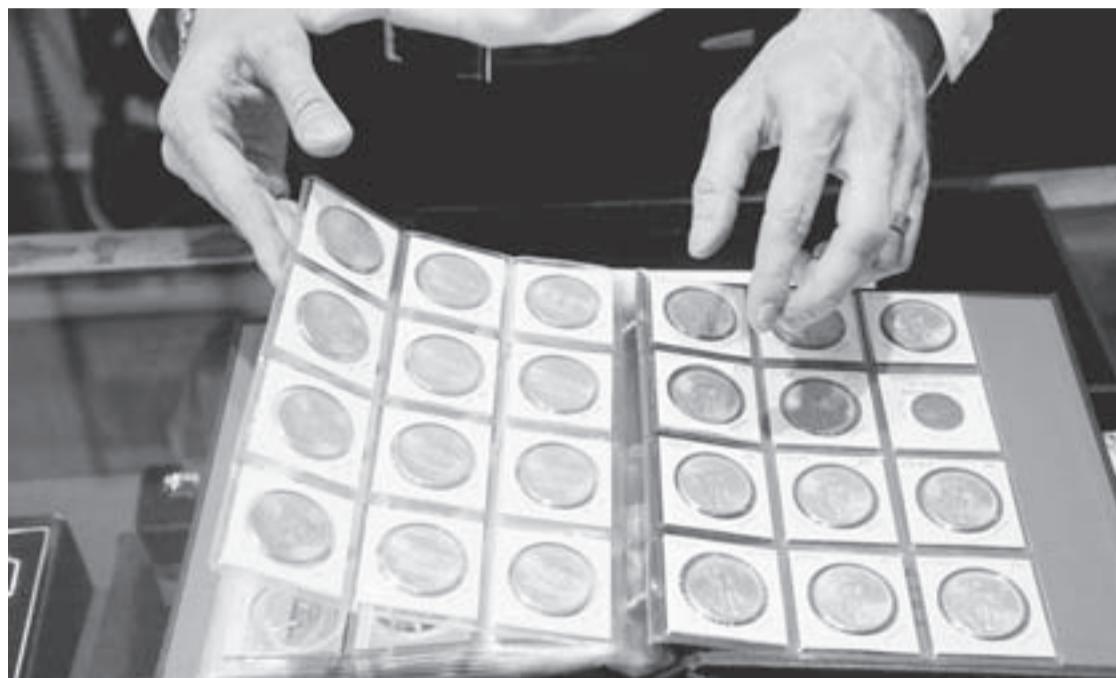
Gold dropped \$22 to settle at \$1,145.70 an ounce on Wednesday, the lowest finish for the precious metal since April 2010. U.S. stocks, meanwhile, hover near all-time highs.

The metal's popularity peaked in the aftermath of the financial crisis. After seeing their savings wiped out, people rushed to in-

vestments considered safe, places where they could stash their money and count on getting it back. Gold, along with U.S. government bonds, carried a bullet-proof reputation. A lack of trust in Wall Street and government added to gold's appeal, amid loud warnings that the Fed's efforts to jump-start the economic recovery would backfire. Pundits and many

when other assets fall. Except the next disaster never arrived. Nerve-wracking moments occasionally drove traders out of stocks and into gold. The metal peaked at \$1,923 an ounce in August 2011, right after Standard & Poor's stripped the U.S. of its top credit rating. But thanks to a stable dollar and weak inflation, gold has been on a long and

rush, financial advisors told clients they could put between 5 and 10 percent of their savings in the metal, says John Gabriel, a strategist at Morningstar in Chicago. Gabriel, who sees no good reason to own gold on its own, thinks this advice was partly a response to the crisis. Advisors wanted to reassure their clients that they had adapted to the changing financial



In this Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014 photo, Numis International Inc. owner Jacob Notowitz displays antique gold coins at his store in Millbrae, Calif. All of the reasons for buying gold over recent years have disappeared, helping to drive prices for the metal to a four-year low.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

investors said the Fed risked creating financial market bubbles, a steep drop in the dollar and runaway inflation. Television advertisements portrayed gold as both reliably stable and likely to gain in popularity when the next disaster hit. Gold is supposed to go up

steady decline ever since. Over the past year, for instance, the dollar index, which measures the greenback against other major currencies, picked up 9 percent. Inflation crept up 1.7 percent. Meanwhile, gold lost 13 percent.

At the height of the gold

landscape. In 2009, people were in no mood to jump back into the stock market. Gold looked like the better bet.

"It was supposed to be a safe haven when markets collapsed," Gabriel says, "but that really hasn't happened."

In certain political circles, people were advised to stock up on gold, guns and ammunition, Gabriel notes. "From an investment perspective, they would have been better off just buying the guns and ammo."

Among investment strategists, there's a growing belief that the worst for gold has yet to come. A surprise announcement by the Bank of Japan last Friday that it will expand its efforts to revive that country's growth sent traders out of Japanese yen and into U.S. dollars. Gold plunged in response. In the U.S., the Fed's next big step is an interest-rate increase, expected sometime next year. That should make savings accounts, money-market funds and other short-term investments more appealing. A higher benchmark rate would also sap inflation pressures and give the dollar another lift.

Current trends, in other words, are all blowing against the yellow metal.

In a recent report, Michael Haigh, global head of commodities research at Societe Generale in New York, looked at how commodity prices responded in periods of gradually higher interest rates. Some commodities, such as copper and heating oil, tend to climb, because a steady increase in rates reflects an improving economy.

But buying gold is betting on bad news. Haigh's team expects gold to drop all the way to \$900 an ounce by 2017. It's an example of what the report calls "a speculative bubble in the process of deflating." To be sure, Wall Street wisdom says that a good time to buy something is often when everybody has turned against it. When the crowd is full of bears, in other words, it's time to be a bull.

"Perhaps that's the best thing you can say about gold," says Edward Meir, a senior commodity consultant at INTL FCStone in New York. "Everybody is bearish on it. Honestly, though, I can't see any bullish story at all." □

US announces 1st bitcoin securities fraud case

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. government on Thursday announced its first bitcoin securities fraud case, accusing a Texas man of engineering a Ponzi scheme by getting people to turn over their bitcoins in return for promises of high interest rates and the ability to recoup their investment at any time. Brendon Shavers awaited an initial court appearance in Texas on securities fraud and wire fraud charges that were outlined in a criminal complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court

in Manhattan.

"This case, the first of its kind, should serve as a warning to those looking to make a quick buck with unsecured currency," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a news release.

Bharara said the 32-year-old Shavers combined financial fraud and cyber-fraud into a bitcoin Ponzi scheme offering "absurdly high interest payments, and ultimately cheated his investors out of their bitcoin investments."

At the peak of the scheme, Shavers possessed about 7 percent of all bitcoin in

public circulation, prosecutors said.

George Venizelos, head of the FBI's New York office, said Shavers "used a new currency, but the same old reprehensible tricks."

"He claimed to offer a bitcoin market-arbitrage strategy. In reality, it was nothing more than an insidious scheme motivated by greed. Today, Shavers' jig is up," Venizelos said.

Bharara said Shavers caused about half of 100 investors to lose all or part of their bitcoin investment from at least September 2011 through September

2012 as he promised them up to 7 percent weekly interest and assured them they could withdraw their investment at any time if they turned over bitcoins. Authorities say Shavers has already been ordered by a federal court in Texas to give up more than \$40 million and pay a \$150,000 penalty in a related civil case.

It isn't clear who will represent Shavers in court. Shavers did not immediately respond to a message for comment.

If convicted, he could face up to 40 years in prison. □

US Jets strike at Khorasan militant group in Syria

BEN HUBBARD

ERIC SCHMITT

© 2014 New York Times

BAGHDAD - American fighter jets carried out a series of airstrikes in northwestern Syria on Thursday that sought to kill leaders of an al-Qaida-linked militant cell that is plotting attacks on the West, U.S. officials said.

U.S. intelligence assessments call the group Khorasan and say it could pose a more immediate threat to the United States and Europe than the Islamic State, which has seized territory on both sides of the Iraq-Syria border.

While a U.S.-led coalition has frequently bombed the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, it had not targeted Khorasan since hitting its bases with a barrage of cruise missiles at the start of its campaign in Syria on Sept. 23.

Of greatest interest to the U.S. government is Muhsin al-Fadhli, a Kuwaiti who is said to have founded Khorasan in Syria and was a senior al-Qaida operative close to Osama bin Laden. After the strikes in September, U.S. officials expressed optimism that the missile barrage had killed at least some of Khorasan's leaders, including Fadhli. Some jihadist sympathizers hailed him on social media as a "martyr."

But in recent weeks, as intelligence analysts sifted through field reports and communications intercepts, they grew more certain that senior members of the group had survived.

"The Khorasan group, we still believe, remains a dangerous entity, that they still have desires and designs to attack Western targets," Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, told reporters this week.

Kirby declined to comment on the status of Khorasan's leadership.

In a statement after Thursday's strike, the U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, said that initial reports indicated that the strikes had succeeded in "destroying or

severely damaging several Khorasan group vehicles and buildings assessed to be meeting and staging areas, IED-making facilities and training facilities."

The statement did not mention the targeting of any individuals.

Syrian activists also reported the strikes, saying that they had killed at least two children and an unknown number of fighters.

One hit a car belonging to the Nusra Front in the village of Sarmada. The activists did not say who had been in it.

Other strikes hit facilities belonging to the Nusra Front in the town of Harim, reducing them to rubble, and a base belonging to another Islamist rebel group, Ahrar al-Sham, near a border crossing with Turkey. In statements and photos posted online, Ahrar al-Sham and the Nusra Front acknowledged that their bases had been hit.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an antigovernment monitoring group, said that two young girls had been killed in the strike on Harim and that six members of the Nusra Front had been killed in another strike in Aleppo province farther east.

Another activist, who gave his name as Ibrahim al-Idlibi, said seven civilians had been killed in addition to a number of fighters from Ahrar al-Sham.

Many in the Syrian opposition have expressed skepticism about the existence of the Khorasan group, saying that the United States had created it to justify strikes on Islamist rebels. Some also defend the Nusra Front, calling it a loyal ally in the fight against President Bashar Assad.

All the strikes on Tuesday occurred in the ungoverned strip of land along the Turkish border, where many rebel groups have bases and frequently go to Turkey to buy supplies and to take a break from the war. Membership in many of these groups is fluid, with fighters flowing among them based on who has arms and money. □



A missile is fired from Islamic State positions in Kobani, seen from a hilltop outside Suruc, on the Turkey-Syria border Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. American fighter jets carried out a series of airstrikes in Syria on Thursday that sought to kill leaders of the al-Qaida-linked Khorasan militant cell that is plotting attacks on the West, U.S. officials said.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)



MONDAY SENIOR NIGHT

Seniors 50+ receive 1x \$10 Free Slot Play after earning 50 points during the week. From 6:00pm - 10:00pm

WEDNESDAY RANDOM PICK SLOT WINNERS

- Prize 1 = Dinner for two at L.G. Smiths
- Prize 2 = Lunch for two at Aquarius
- Prize 3 = \$50 Free Slot Play (Raffle will start from 8:00pm)

Accumulate 25 points during the week and you are eligible to win

THURSDAY FREE SLOT TOURNAMENT

- Prize 1 = \$100 • Prize 2 = \$150 • Prize 3 = \$200 • Prize 4 = \$250

Registration starts at 6:00pm - Tournament starts at 8:00pm

Accumulate 25 points during the week and you are eligible to participate at the tournament

FRIDAY CRYSTAL DAZZLE NIGHT

FREE SLOT PLAY:

- Prize 1 = \$75 • Prize 2 = \$125 • Prize 3 = \$150

CASH PRIZES:

- Prize 4 = \$200 • Prize 5 = \$300

SATURDAY SIZZLING CASH

- Prize 1 = \$200 • Prize 2 = \$400 • Prize 3 = \$1000

9:30pm - 10:30pm and 11:00pm

Promotions valid for members only

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Indoor & outdoor seating - Large Terrace with live music

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Served between 4 pm and 7 pm
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School shelling deaths in Ukraine hurt peace hopes

N. VASILYeva

Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — The shelling of a high school in Ukraine's rebel stronghold of Donetsk has chilled

cer after lunch Wednesday is a stark reminder that the cease-fire agreed upon in September has only really ever existed on paper. Four other students

hospital in Donetsk. The warring sides — government troops on one side and pro-Russian separatists on the other — now look as far from any lasting settle-

shelling of the school. In the soccer field at Donetsk's school No. 63, two bloodied coats still lay out in the open Thursday as relatives and staff gathered at the scene.

Alexander Yeliseyev, the father of one victim, 18-year-old Andrei, walked by in shock as he gathered belongings left behind when his son's body was removed — a dark brown coat and a pair of sneakers.

"They went to play football at about 2 p.m., while I was at work. And then the shelling began. Here you see the result," Yeliseyev said, gulping back sobs.

He said 14-year-old Danya, another student, was also killed.

Authorities in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev said the security services will investigate the shelling of a school, but officials already appear to have made their mind up. Security spokesman Andriy Lysenko said preliminary information indicated the shells flew into the school from a location controlled by separatist forces.

The rebels, however, swiftly

blamed Ukrainian forces for the deadly attack, saying government troops often indiscriminately target residential areas in eastern Ukraine. All that is certain so far is that the school where the shells landed is at least 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the nearest government position but close to rebel posts. That would appear to lend weight to claims of Ukrainian culpability — government troops shelling the rebels — but Lysenko said the shelling was planned in advance by the rebels to discredit government forces.

Government officials have failed to produce cast-iron evidence of such claims in the past, and independent rights groups say there's evidence that government artillery has hit homes in eastern Ukraine. Residents of stricken areas have frequently complained that rebels deploy artillery near homes, invariably drawing return fire.

The UN estimates more than 4,000 people have been killed over six months of fighting between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. That includes several hundred who have died since a much-violated cease-fire was signed in early September.

At school No. 63, which was lavishly refurbished last year with funds provided by local billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, a dozen teachers and sobbing parents huddled by the soccer field Thursday as the roar of outgoing missile fire was heard a few kilometers (miles) away.

Two mortars had landed on the school premises Wednesday: one next to a concrete porch by the school, shattering a few windows. □



Unidentified parents of the killed and injured children leave the football pitch in Donetsk, Eastern Ukraine on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, where shelling happened Wednesday. Two bloodied coats lay on the school pitch early Thursday morning, a day after an artillery strike killed two teenagers and injured four more as they were playing football.

(AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov)

even the battle-hardened in this weary nation.

The killing of two teenagers as they were playing soc-

were wounded, according to Dr. Vladimir Voropayev, chief of the children's trauma unit at the regional

ment as they ever were. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki condemned the

the president to task for not doing enough to help ease businesses' burden. Hollande admitted it was a "mistake" when he promised in 2012 that the unemployment rate would decrease by the end of 2013, and said his priority is to boost France's growth through a total of 40 billion of tax cuts for companies and a goal of cutting 50 billion euros in state spending by 2017, including 21 billion next year.

"From next year, there will be no new tax", he said. He also promised to allow shops to open on Sunday

in cities with many tourists. In a twist the TV organizers of the interview launched a Twitter hashtag, #Direct-PR, to elicit questions from people following the program online.

Much of the online commentary under that hashtag was harshly critical of Hollande's performance: a tweet by French daily *Le Monde* journalist Thomas Wieder that said "In the newsroom we are hesitating between describing this as 'a shipwreck' or 'a slaughter'" was retweeted nearly 300 times. □

France's Hollande faces grilling on unemployment

PARIS (AP) — Halfway through his term, French President Francois Hollande used a rare prime-time TV appearance Thursday to double down on his pledge not to run again if he makes no headway cutting France's stubbornly high unemployment.

It was only the embattled president's second prime-time TV interview since he came to office in May, 2012. Polls this week showed his popularity falling to new lows, around 12 percent.

EU Commission forecasts this week make grim read-

ing for Hollande: France's unemployment is forecast to stay above 10 percent through 2016, compared to 9.8 percent when Hollande came to office. Last April, when Hollande first made the pledge, unemployment was about 10.1. Hollande used the interview to defend his record but was hard-pressed by a panel of four regular citizens chosen by the TV channel that organized the interview. One member of the panel, small business owner Karine Charbonnier, was particularly combative and took

Venezuelan official ruffles feathers with Brazil visit

HANNAH DREIER

ADRIANA LICON

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A Venezuelan official's seemingly low-key visit to Brazil has drawn a rare rebuke from a staunch ally and prompted grumbling at home about privileges enjoyed by top government officers.

Brazil contacted Venezuelan diplomats on Wednesday to complain that the socialist country's former foreign minister, Elias Jaua, had met with a domestic activist group without providing any kind of heads up.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Alberto Figueiredo said the surprise visit was out of step with the excellent relations between the two countries, and could be interpreted as interference in internal affairs. Brazil does not require ministers to provide notification when they do work in the country, but it is considered good form.

The trip got off to a rocky start two weeks ago when Jaua's nanny was caught with a handgun as she arrived in Brazil on a plane owned by Venezuela's state oil company. She said the gun belonged to Jaua, who had arrived in Brazil a day earlier with his son and ill wife. Jaua was Venezuela's foreign minister until this fall and remains in the cabinet as vice president for the development of socialism. He posted on his Twitter account that he had signed an agreement with Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, a group that advocates for land reform, and visited laboratories to discuss the supply of pharmaceuticals in shortage-plagued Venezuela.

The opposition is holding up the trip as proof that Venezuelan officials enjoy special privileges while most of the country suffers.

Former presidential candidate Henrique Capriles, who twice nearly unseated

the ruling socialist party in elections, questioned why Jaua was using a government-owned plane to trav-

el, given that he no longer holds a diplomatic post. Government critics quickly found the nanny's Face-



Venezuela's Foreign Minister Elias Jaua waves to supporters in Caracas, Venezuela. Brazil is asking the Venezuelan government why it did not provide notification before Jaua met with a Brazilian rural workers organization.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

book page, which documented various trips she'd taken, presumably with the then-foreign minister. On social media, some called her the jet-setting, gun-toting nanny, and suggested she should get her own reality television show.

Others asserted that Jaua was traveling to Brazil to seek expensive medical treatment for his wife, and questioned how the family could afford an expensive stay in a first-class foreign hospital on a government salary. But a letter attributed to Jaua and posted to the governing party's website says the minister was traveling on official business when his wife unexpectedly fell ill. He said the nanny failed to remove the gun from his briefcase in the rush to get to Brazil.

Uruguay's Mujica gets big offers for his VW Beetle

L. HABERKORN

Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — President Jose Mujica says he has received a million-dollar offer to buy his blue 1987 Volkswagen Beetle, which has become a symbol of the Uruguayan leader's austere lifestyle. The man once nicknamed "the poorest president in the world" told the Uruguayan weekly Busqueda that an Arab sheik offered \$1 million for the humble car. When asked about the reported offer at a news conference, Mujica said: "That's what they said to me, but I didn't give it any importance."

In an informal chat, Mexico's ambassador to Uruguay recently suggested to Mujica that he auction the Beetle in Mexico and predicted he could get 10 four-wheel-drive trucks for it, according to a spokesman for the Mexican Embassy who spoke on condition of anonymity because

he was not authorized to talk with the press.

Mujica, a former leftist Tupamaro guerrilla leader, said that if got \$1 million for the car, he would donate the money to a program he supports that gives housing to the homeless. If he got trucks for it, he said, they could go to Uruguay's public health office or his campaign workers.

The president said he would gladly auction the Beetle because he has "no commitment to cars" and he joked that he didn't sell it because of his dog Manuela, famous for only having three legs.

Asked why someone would pay a fortune for his little car, Mujica said: "Human beings have a bit of fetishism; we need certain material symbols."

He noted that he keeps a hammer and shovel that belonged to his father. "They are little things to the world, but are worth a lot to you."



MONDAY BINGO NIGHT

Starts at 9:30pm. Issuing Bingo Card from 9:00pm.

With 25 points on your member's card you receive a free bingo card

TUESDAY CASH MANIA

From 8:00pm - 11:00pm

Prize 1 = \$50 Prize 2 = \$50 Prize 3 = \$150 Prize 4 = \$200

WEDNESDAY BINGO NIGHT

Starts at 9:30pm. Issuing Bingo Card from 9:00pm

With 25 points on your member's card you receive a free bingo card

THURSDAY FREE SLOT TOURNAMENT

Prize 1 = \$50 Prize 2 = \$50 Prize 3 = \$150 Prize 4 = \$250

Inscription at 6:00pm - Tournament starts at 8:00pm

Accumulate 25 points during the week and you are eligible to participate at the tournament

FRIDAY CRAZY CASH

Prize 1 = \$100 Prize 2 = \$200 Prize 3 = \$300
9:30pm, 10:30pm and 11:00pm

SATURDAY TABLE MANIA

Prize 1 = \$100 Prize 2 = \$200 Prize 3 = \$300

SUNDAY DOUBLE THE FUN POINTS

From 3:30pm - 7:00pm

MONDAY TO FRIDAY DAILY POWER BALL BINGO

1:00pm - 3:30pm. Price per Bingo Card \$7. Progressive \$1.15 (AWG. 2,00)

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS SUPER POWER BALL BINGO

1:00pm - 3:30pm. Price per Bingo Card \$8.50. Progressive \$1.15 (AWG. 2,00)

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Meaning in a selfie, 1 year after Philippine storm

TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press

TANAUAN, Philippines (AP)

— The Saavedras waited for death as Typhoon Haiyan tore at their roof, knocked down walls and unleashed torrents of sea-

the Saavedras' laidback farming town of Tanauan, as one of the most ferocious typhoons ever to hit land. The monster storm displaced about 4 million people and turned a large swath of densely popu-

and repaired. "I was so afraid I was trembling and I said, 'Lord, if this is my last day, forgive me for everything.'"

The 21-year-old college student said even while praying, she was terrified

nila, and one was in Kuwait.

Many other families had much different fates. In a nearby village, all but two members of a 45-member clan are buried in a mass grave.

When the rain and wind finally subsided hours after the storm hit, David, a 26-year-old accountant, left the cramped hallway on the second floor of the wood-and-concrete home where he and his family were huddled while hell broke loose. He saw bodies floating on the street outside. The next-door neighbors were drenched and shuddering on the second floor of their house, its walls gone. One paraplegic neighbor was clinging to a post near the roof of his house. Others were crying, many in shock.

"In just one click, everything can be snatched from you," David said, tears welling in his eyes. "But the feeling that you are still alive after that is really overwhelming."

For four days the family lived on 2 kilograms (4 pounds) of fish and pork that they found inside their refrigerator that floated in the flood; its door luckily remained shut. A stack of soda in their mother's small store quenched their thirst. At the same time, David and Veronica's sister Sarah Songalia was in anguish in

Manila, where she owns an accounting firm. There was no news from her hometown for three days, with telephone and power lines down and roads blocked by debris.

"I said, 'Lord, just keep them all alive. I will do everything so our town can rise again,'" said Songalia, the eldest of the family's seven children.

With no news coming their way, Songalia and her officemates put up a Facebook community page in hopes that people from her hometown could send updates. They and other volunteers gathered relief supplies, turning Songalia's office in the heart of the Makati financial district into a relief operations center. Her family was able to board a bus and reach Manila five days after the typhoon. They have since relocated closer to Songalia, and have helped her with the relief effort. Only Veronica is still living in their home province of Leyte — she's staying with relatives in Tacloban, the provincial capital — but their parents plan to move back when the father retires in two years.

The nonprofit group Songalia founded, Burublig Para Ha Tanauan, has started projects to help villagers recover, powered by volunteers.

The projects include distributing boats to fishermen who lost their vessels and training women to sew hospital scrubs and school uniforms. Drivers who lost vehicles known as tricycles — actually bicycles with canopied sidecars — have been given replacements. Residents are organized into cooperatives. They get the equipment they need on an operate-to-own basis, paying back the cost in installments.

One of the new boat owners is Gerardo Barcilla, who now can earn 400 pesos to 1,000 pesos (\$9-\$22) a day from his catch of fish and crabs. The 47-year-old fisherman lost his home, his boat and his 19-year-old son, one of five children, to Haiyan. □



David Saavedra shows a group selfie photo with his younger sister Veronica, center, and mother at his office at the financial district of Makati, south of Manila, Philippines. The photo was taken at the second floor of their house during the height of Typhoon Haiyan in Tanauan, Leyte province, central Philippines on Nov. 8, 2013.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

water below them. All they could do was pray, say "I love you" one last time and take a picture.

David Saavedra raised his cellphone in the chaos to snap a group selfie to record their final moments. He took it for his eldest sister in Manila, hoping to show that at the end, her family was together — even serene.

That explains his smile, incongruous against the wind-ripped scene and the terror-stricken faces of his younger sister, Veronica, and their mother.

The picture was intended to go on top of David's coffin, but instead it is a reminder of the family's immense luck, and of the obligation they feel to help neighbors who weren't nearly as fortunate when the massive typhoon hit Nov. 8, 2013.

More than 7,300 people died or went missing when Haiyan slammed the central Philippines, including

lated regions into a wasteland.

"I said 'I love you' to my parents because I felt at that time that it was our last day alive," Veronica Saavedra said in an interview in the family's old house, now partially cleaned up

by the loud hissing of the wind, and memories of the rising water hounded her sleep for months.

The Saavedras — David, Veronica, their brother JR, their mother and their father — all survived. Three other siblings were in Ma-



Veronica Saavedra stands outside their damaged house in Tanauan, Leyte province, central Philippines. Veronica's brother David took a group selfie with her and their mother during the height of Typhoon Haiyan on Nov. 8, 2013.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

This Week at the Marriott Resort:

Comedians from NBC, the David Letterman Show Performing

--American comedy stars return in a phenomenal show at the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino from now until November 17th!

PALM BEACH - Top level entertainment is happening in Aruba, a welcome addition to the island! This week, "Aruba Ray's Comedy Show" continues to present top US comedians from the Letterman Show, the Tonight Show, the Today Show, and Comedy Central.

The shows are at 830pm in the Amsterdam Ballroom in the Marriott Resort. Reservations can be made by calling 520-6606, or ask your concierge for assistance.



tance.

Shows have been selling out. It is strongly suggested you arrive early - you can pick up and pay for your tickets at 730pm at the Amsterdam Ballroom. Seating

is first come first serve! The tickets are \$34. And each Comedy Ticket gives every audience member \$10 in FREE Slot Play in the Stellaris Casino at the Marriott (ID required!). And each Comedy Ticket will also provide a 20% discount to the Aruba La Vista buffet.

Plus, audience members can purchase an optional four hour premium open bar for only \$20! The premium open bar continues after the show in the casino until MIDNIGHT. An incredible deal.

Appearing from now until November 11th will be Chuck Nice, recognized by his regular appearances on the Today Show, VH1's Best Week Ever, Fox, and HGTV.

Also performing with Chuck is Lenny Marcus, who just the other night made his third appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman.

Appearing from November 11th until November 17th will be Brian Scott McFadden, and Mike Vecchione. Mike has been on the Tonight Show and Comedy Central, and Brian has been on the Letterman Show, the Craig Ferguson Show, and was in the Ben Stiller movie The Secret Life of Walter Mitty!

Ray Ellin will be hosting the



shows. Known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba, Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past three years, and produces and hosts these fantastic comedy shows on the island.

Ray has appeared on many television programs; he is the host of the new Gong Show Live, a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He also hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy,

distributed by 20th Century Fox. All of the comedians perform regularly in New York City's biggest venues. And while these shows are not vulgar, they are intended for an adult audience. For more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino at (011-297)-586-9000.

Additional information: Seating is first come, first serve. Doors open at 8pm. You can purchase tickets at 730pm. Reservations suggested. The reservation phone number is 520-6606. The show starts at 830pm. The show ends around 10pm. There is NO drink minimum! □





J.E. Irausquin Boulevard. 77, (ex-Westin Hotel) Tel: 586-3388.

Lunch & Dinner

Located in the lower lobby of the hotel. Please use side entrance in parking lot.

To Showcase Island Artists;

Blue Residences Partners with Isla 360 and Kitchen Table



in Michelin five star restaurants in Holland.

The restaurant serves only 18 guests nightly, immersing them in a world where

featuring five artists in their stable, Luis Mesquita, Gabriela Britto, Shanna Kraaijveld, Maria Onno and Maja. In the future, solo exhibi-



PALM BEACH - Blue Residences, the innovative condominium/hotel resort that opened its doors in Eagle in the spring, was proud to unveil the intimate gourmet concept of Kitchen Table by White as their resident eatery at the beginning of the summer. Kitchen Table has raised the bar for dining on Aruba, inspired by traditional Aruban dishes, but elevating them to haute cuisine. Chef Urvin Croes has been lauded as one of the island's best after training



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food is art.

It is only appropriate that Blue Residences has decided to also highlight the talent of local artists; Blue GM Jan van Ness chose to collaborate with Milouska and Sheryl of Isla 360 Art & Lifestyle, who bring an incredible energy and passion to the task of being curators of the monthly exhibits.

They debuted their first collection on Wednesday evening, November 5, which is a group exhibit

tions of their "artist of the month" will adorn the walls of Kitchen Table, allowing diners to enjoy the diversity of creativity presented by exciting and vital painters, photographers and sculptors.

The list of scheduled participants consists of native born Aruban artists as well as many who have come to the island to make it their home.

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The present collection features works by expats from Argentina, Uruguay, Serbia and the U.S., and the plan is to also incorporate culinary traditions from their countries into one of the dishes on the prix fixe menu, which also changes monthly.

Described as a "feast for the senses," Kitchen Table



at Blue Residence is an experience that speaks to all the elements that encompass "the good life." Delectable food, gorgeously prepared and presented, paired with fine wines and accompanied by pleasant entertainment have become its trademark. Both the chef and Blue management are very excited about this collaboration with Isla 360, which

have become known on the island for their discerning taste and verve in assembling exciting exhibitions of authentic, locally produced art and crafts for their pop-up expositions. All involved are very proud to introduce this visual element to what is already a memorable dining experience and invite everyone to come and enjoy this world of artistic dining. □

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PALM BEACH - Aruba visitors James Wheatley, Ryan Milo and Enza Romeo are longtime travelers to the Caribbean and enjoy the chance to rest, relax and soak in the Aruban sunshine.

The trio has been visiting Aruba for 15 years from their hometown of Detroit, Michigan in the United States. They first discovered Bugaloe while exploring the island's beautiful beaches.

Walking along the beach and listening to great music leads you to some great places, as it turns out! James, Ryan and Enza all remember the first time they set foot in Bugaloe after a long day's adventuring and exploring on Aruba. They immediately loved

the atmosphere of Bugaloe and returned year after year for the great staff, guests, diversity, and 'anything goes' attitude of the bar.

The trio agrees that the goat cheese salad takes their vote for favorite meal while the favored drink is Grey Goose with an orange slice. Sounds like a great refresher after a long day of playing on the beach, in the sun, and at the casino! After they're done enjoying all the things Bugaloe and Aruba has to offer they catch up on some rest at Playa Linda, one of the hotels they've stayed at over their 15 years of traveling to the island.



James, Ryan and Enza like that Aruba feels safe and say it's like 'their second home.' With friends like the ones they've found at Bugaloe that sounds about right! Their favorite memory is of a Bugaloe guest complaining that her drink wasn't strong enough when it was returned to her, it was definitely strong enough!

We look forward to James, Ryan and Enza's next trip to Aruba and will hopefully see them again at Bugaloe soon! □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



GOLDEN GRAEME



McDowell Shoots 67 for Lead in Shanghai

Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland walks on the 9th hole during the first round of the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014.

(AP Photo)

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SHANGHAI (AP)—Graeme McDowell typically looks at the leaderboard more often at the start of a tournament. It gives him a sense of how the course is playing and what score he might need to contend at the finish.

There was no need to look Thursday in the HSBC Champions.

McDowell noticed ankle-deep rough at Sheshan

International and fairways not as wide as usual. He felt firm greens and saw trees jostling in stiff wind. More than anything, he kept looking at all the birdies that filled his scorecard. McDowell already had seven birdies when he finished his 12th hole, and a couple of loose mistakes at the end of the opening round didn't diminish his satisfaction. He opened with a 5-under 67 on a tough day in Shanghai to build a two-

shot lead.

"No, I didn't need a leaderboard to let me know that 7 under through 12 is fairly strong," McDowell said. "Gauging what's a good score can be a good thing maybe when you're not going well. But it might not be a great thing if you're taking it deep and the rest of them are 3-under par and you're thinking, 'Whoa, this is a very good score.'"

That's not what slowed him.

Trouble was lurking everywhere, and not even McDowell was immune.

Rickie Fowler also started quickly with three birdies in his opening five holes, only to spend the rest of the round trading birdies with bogeys. He wound up with a 69, along with U.S. Open champion Martin Kaymer, Brandt Snedeker, Chris Kirk, Tim Clark and Tommy Fleetwood.

Strong wind added to the demanding conditions.

Jordan Spieth began his new PGA Tour season with two straight bogeys and had to save par with a long bunker shot on his third hole.

He scratched his way back and wound up in a large group at 70 that featured Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Adam Scott and Henrik Stenson, who made bogey from the bunker on his final hole.

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McDowell shoots 67 for lead in Shanghai

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It didn't take much for players to stumble. FedEx Cup champion Billy Horschel made two double bogeys, only one birdie and shot an 80. "This is a top event — some of the best players in the world, probably the best field you're going to get in Asia, and you don't want it to be a pushover," Fowler said. "You want a good, solid test. And it's showing that."

Only 27 players in the 78-man field broke par, compared with 37 players under par on the first day last year when the winning score was 24-under 264. McDowell said he wouldn't be surprised to see something around 10 or 12 under win, even if the wind lets up.

McDowell is the only player this year to finish in the top 10 at all the World Golf Championships, and while he hasn't captured a WGC title, Sheshan International would seem to favor him more than the others. Thursday was his 10th consecutive round in the 60s on this course.

"A big key to this golf course is driving the ball well. I drove it very well today," McDowell said.

The exception was on the 603-yard eighth hole, playing with the wind. McDowell hit a 3-wood to avoid the bunker on the right side of the fairway, and he put it in the deep grass for the first time all day. He could only manage an 8-iron out of the rough and still had 215 yards over the creek fronting the green. McDowell pulled that left of the green and failed to get up and down.

No complaints. He did not forget the 20-foot birdie putt he made on No. 14, or the 45-foot putt he holed across the green at the 17th, or the 25-foot birdie on No. 3. And then there was his drive on the 288-yard 16th, a perfect yardage to go with a perfect swing that gave him a two-putt from 15 feet for birdie. "There were some tricky holes on the front nine,"



Rickie Fowler of the U.S. tees off on the 14th hole during the first round of the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014.

(AP Photo)

McDowell said. "I made a couple of putts I should have in the first 12 holes,

and then I made a couple of bogeys that I shouldn't have coming in. All in all, I

think 5 under was a fair representation of my round."

DIVOTS: Graham DeLaet

withdrew after a 45 for nine holes because of a neck injury. □

Cappelen takes lead at Sanderson Farms

DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP)

— Sebastian Cappelen narrowly missed earning his PGA Tour card last season and needed a sponsor exemption to make the field in the Sanderson Farms Championship.

The 24-year-old Danish golfer is making the most of his opportunity.

Cappelen shot a 7-under 65 on Thursday in his first PGA Tour round to take the lead at the Country Club of Jackson. He opened with a bogey before making eight birdies to take a two-shot lead over Robert Streb, Scott Pinckney and Canada's Nick Taylor.

"I couldn't be happier, to be honest," Cappelen said. "Obviously, I came here just trying to get a new experience and get a feel of how it feels like to play on the real tour, and I had a great time out there today. Hit a lot of good shots."

Cappelen was an All-American in college at Arkan-

sas. He won the Air Capital Classic in June on the Web.com Tour. He was in good position to earn his PGA

"I mean, obviously, it's a heartbreaker being so close and then not getting it," Cappelen said. "So get-

was a sobering moment. "That's usually how it is for me when I have a good round," Cappelen said. "I usually start with a bogey on the first hole, and then just kind of like, 'OK, I've got to get going.'" Play was suspended because of darkness with 15 players unable to finish. Overnight rain made for a soft course early, but players said it firmed up as the day progressed. Streb is back in contention two weeks after winning the McGladrey Classic in a playoff for his first PGA Tour title. After taking a week off to relax at home and watch his hometown Kansas City Royals in the World Series, Streb made six birdies and just one bogey Thursday.

"I didn't play a whole lot of golf last week," Streb said. "But a little bit of work on the range, and it didn't take too long to find it, so it was pretty exciting."

Defending champion Woody Austin had a 70. There were 13 players within three shots of the lead. □



Sebastian Cappelen of Denmark, right, fist bumps his caddie Scott Marshall after finishing the first round with a 7-under 65 at the Sanderson Farms Championship golf tournament on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, in Jackson, Miss.

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

Tour card, but a poor performance in the last regular-season Web.com Tour event dropped him to 26th place on the money list — one spot shy of the top 25 finish needed to make the PGA Tour.

ting a chance here where I felt like I should be, it's everything. I couldn't thank the sponsors here more for what they've done."

Cappelen said he had some nerves before the round, but the early bogey

Column: Aging fighters have nothing on Hopkins

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

It's usually not a pretty sight when aging athletes still think they can do the things they once did in their youth. What Bernard Hopkins sometimes does isn't always pretty either.

The light heavyweight champion is a master defensive fighter who doesn't always thrill, but usually finds a way to win.

Two months shy of his 50th birthday, Hopkins enters the ring once again on Saturday in Atlantic City, New Jersey, determined to both retain his title and show he still has the reflexes to compete at a top level. He will be trying to mitigate the brutal punching power of a Russian young enough to be his son. There are some

in boxing who think Sergey Kovalev will not only finally end Hopkins' career, but could seriously hurt him. Those are legitimate fears, because boxing is not a game, and older fighters are more often to be pitied than they are to be celebrated. Relax, says the former Executioner who now goes by the nickname Alien. He's boxing not only for himself, but for everyone who is growing grey in America. "What 40-plus guy doesn't want to see another 40-plus guy beat a guy 20 years younger than him?" Hopkins asks. "If I was this age hitting home runs on the Yankees they would all be talking about me."

The fearsome Kovalev — who has never lost in knocking out 23 of his 26 opponents — looks to be an almost insurmountable test even for a fighter who, so far, has defied most of the normal laws of aging. Oddsmakers make Hopkins a 3-1 underdog, and Kovalev says he will be the fighter who finally shuts up the loquacious Hopkins.

"I don't really understand what Bernard is saying. Even if I understood, I wouldn't care," the 31-year-old Kovalev says. "I don't worry about him. I'll go into the ring and do my job."

Boxing history is littered with fighters who never knew

when to retire, sometimes with tragic consequences.

The great Joe Louis fought far too long as he sought to pay the taxman, and Archie Moore was in the 208th fight of his professional career and about to celebrate his 46th birthday when a rising young heavyweight named Cassius Clay knocked him out in the fourth round of their 1962 bout.

How Hopkins has — at least so far — escaped with both his wits and his marbles intact has a lot to do with how he trains and how he fights. He doesn't fight all that often, always stays in shape in between fights, and once in the ring tends to make it very difficult for the man in front of him to land a punch.

"I haven't seen Hopkins get hit flush in years," said Oscar De La Hoya, who was stopped by Hopkins with a body punch in their 2004 fight. "He's very crafty and knows how to move with punches.

That may not be the most marketable style, but it's a highly effective one. In the decade of his 40s, Hopkins is 10-4 with one no contest and one draw, and he is the proud owner of two of the three light heavyweight belts that will be at stake. Besides, Hopkins does most of his promoting — he is a minority partner with De La Hoya in Golden Boy Promotions — with his mouth rather than his fists.

"Fighting is fun and that's the scary part," Hopkins said. "I'm having more fun in the last 10 years than I had in the first 15 or 20 years of my career. It's completely backward from the way I'm supposed to be thinking at this stage of my life." Indeed, the best part of Hopkins fighting at such an advanced age is that he wants to fight, not that he has to fight. The former con from Philadelphia re-invented himself long ago as a businessman-fighter who has money stashed away in long-term conservative investments, and likes to talk about his fondness for shopping at discount stores.



Bernard Hopkins spars with trainer Naazim Richardson during a media workout in Philadelphia. Sergey Kovalev, of Russia, will fight Hopkins for his WBA Super World-IBF-WBO light heavyweight titles on Nov. 8, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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Brazil: Hamilton and Rosberg fight for edge in title race

TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Formula One title contenders and teammates Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg will use the Brazilian Grand Prix this weekend to fight for the edge going into the

second championship. The series can't be decided at Interlagos on Sunday because the race in Abu Dhabi will be worth double points, but the results will determine how the title fight will be set up for the finale.

keep his hopes alive. "It's clear that I need to rely on something happening," Rosberg said. "For sure, it's not enough for me to win, unfortunately, but that's the way it is. In sports, so much can happen, so I'm still very optimistic."

teammate and finish with the victory. "It's been quite a phenomenal season," Hamilton said. "This year, for sure, has been the best year of my career. I feel like I've grown as a driver." The British driver said he

season, really, I want to win," Hamilton said. Rosberg led the drivers' standings early in the season. But he hasn't won since the German GP at home in July, eight races ago. He stayed within range of his teammate by finishing second in five of the last six races.

The start of Rosberg's struggles began almost at the same time as his relationship with Hamilton deteriorated following contact between them at the Belgian GP. Hamilton was angry about being taken out by his teammate and Rosberg was also criticized by team officials.

"I don't think anything has changed," Rosberg said. "It was an intense battle before and it still is an intense battle now. I don't know his exact opinion on things, but for me nothing has changed since then.

"Lewis has done a little bit of a better job since then. That's it, pretty simple. But as I say, still two races (left)."

The title race remains undecided in great part because of the rule change that made the season-ending race worth double points, an artificial move aimed at keeping fan interest alive to the end.

"Great news that, for sure this year, I have a chance to win the championship the way it is now, that's a good thing," Rosberg said. "I'm also happy because it's good for the fans, and that it's going to be exciting until the very end. It keeps me very, very optimistic."

It will be the last race at Interlagos before an extensive renovation in the paddock and pit areas. There were some safety changes for this year, including the addition of runoff areas and a new pit entrance and pit exit.

"It's a lot safer now," Williams driver Felipe Massa said. "I hope we will see less accidents than in the past."

Rain is expected for the weekend, which could add even more unknowns to the title race.



Mercedes' team members push the car of Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, at the Interlagos race track in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. The Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix will take place on Nov. 9.

(AP Photo/Andre Penner)

season-ending race in Abu Dhabi this month.

Rosberg needs to win in Brazil on Sunday to have a real shot at his first title. Hamilton just needs to stay close to his Mercedes teammate to close in on his

Hamilton has a 24-point lead and would clinch the title with consecutive second-place finishes or by coming third in Brazil and second in Abu Dhabi. Rosberg will need to be nearly perfect in both races to

Hamilton has been on a remarkable tear in the final part of the season, winning five straight races to open up a big lead. He started behind Rosberg in two of the last three races but was still able to overcome his

comes to Brazil "relaxed" and feels he and the team just need to "continue to do what we have done in the previous races."

"I approach this race the same as I approached the last two races, or the whole

Trout, McCutchen win Silver Slugger Awards

NEW YORK (AP) — The Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout, Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen and Washington's Ian Desmond have won their third straight Silver Slugger Awards.

Chicago White Sox rookie first baseman Jose Abreu and Houston second baseman Jose Altuve were among eight first-time winners announced Thursday by Louisville Slugger, which presents the annual honors following voting by ma-

jer league managers and coaches for the top hitter in each league at every position.

Texas third baseman Adrian Beltre won for the fourth time and was joined on the AL team by White Sox shortstop Alexei Ramirez, Cleveland catcher Yan Gomes and Detroit designated hitter Victor Martinez. Trout joined Mike Piazza (1993-95) as the only players to win in each of their first three full big league sea-

sons and was joined in the outfield by Toronto's Jose Bautista and Cleveland's Michael Brantley.

The NL team included Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, Pittsburgh second baseman Neil Walker and Washington's left side of the infield, with Desmond at shortstop and Anthony Rendon at third. McCutchen was picked in the outfield along with Miami's Giancarlo Stanton and Atlanta's

Justin Upton. World Series champion San Francisco earned battery honors, with Madison Bumgarner winning at pitcher and Buster Posey at catcher. Brantley, Bumgarner, Gomes, Rendon, Stanton and Walker also were first-time winners. Beltre, Gonzalez and Martinez each earned \$100,000 bonuses; Trout \$75,000; Brantley, Bumgarner and Posey \$50,000 apiece; Altuve \$25,000; and Abreu and Ramirez \$15,000 each.

Legal Notes

Rice's NFL suspension hearing concludes after 2 days

ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ray Rice and wife Janay testified Thursday on the final day of a hearing in the former Baltimore Ravens running back's appeal of his indefinite NFL suspension.

The arbitration hearing before a former federal judge will determine whether the NFL overstepped its authority in modifying Rice's two-game suspension, making it

indefinite after video of the running back hitting his wife — then his fiancee — was released by TMZ.

Rice and Janay Rice left the hearing separately about three hours apart after each testified at former U.S. District Judge Barbara S. Jones' office.

"I can trust it's a fair process," said Rice's attorney, Peter Ginsberg.

Two people familiar with the case said there's no

timetable for Jones to make her decision, though one person said she has asked the sides to submit closing briefs next week. Both spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the arbiter has told the sides not to discuss details of the private hearing.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell testified for more than two hours to start the appeal hearing Wednes-

day, according to one of the sources. Ray and Janay Rice attended the full hearing Wednesday.

League security chief Jeffrey Miller and Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome also testified in the hearing.

The NFL players' union said in a statement that the hearing was fair and thorough, and thanked NFL owners and officials for agreeing to use a neutral

arbiter.

"The collectively bargained rights of all players must be vehemently preserved and we take that obligation seriously," the statement said. "This appeal, presided over by a neutral arbitrator, which included a presentation of all the relevant facts, witness testimony to the truth and cross examination, is the due process that every athlete deserves."

NFL says Peterson must wait for review process

DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — If Adrian Peterson is allowed to return to the Minnesota Vikings this season, the reunion probably won't happen swiftly.

The NFL formally began a review of the star running back's case for potential punishment under the league's personal conduct policy, informing Peterson on Thursday that his status on paid leave from the Vikings will not change until completion of the process. "The NFL has requested that Peterson submit relevant information regarding his case and meet with designated experts who will make recommendations for the commissioner's consideration," spokesman Brian McCarthy said. "Peterson also will have the opportunity to have a hearing prior to the issuance of any discipline."

Peterson pleaded no contest in Texas on Tuesday to

misdemeanor reckless assault, down from a felony charge of child abuse for disciplining his 4-year-old son with a stick. He re-

a \$4,000 fine and requirement to complete parenting classes and 80 hours of community service.

"Adrian wants to get on

and get back to playing football," Peterson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, said after the plea agreement was reached to avoid a trial or



Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, center, and his attorney Rusty Hardin, left, speak to the media in Conroe, Texas.

(AP Photo/The Courier, Michael Minasi)

ceived what's essentially two years of probation, plus

with his life and have his relationship with his son

any jail time for the 29-year-old.

Just how fast Peterson gets back to playing football is a complicated and potentially contentious matter.

A few hours after the NFL released its update, the NFL Players Association issued a statement demanding efficiency and consistency. Those traits have often been missing from the disciplinary process.

"Our union worked with the NFL, the Minnesota Vikings and Adrian's representatives on a mutual agreement pending the adjudication of his legal case. Now that his legal matter is resolved, we believe it is Adrian's right to be treated in a manner that is consistent with similar cases under our collective bargaining agreement. We will pursue any and all remedies if those rights are breached," the NFLPA said.

The Vikings (4-5) are in their bye week, scheduled to reconvene for practice Monday. They play next at Chicago on Nov. 16.

NCAA questioned its authority in penalizing Penn State

MARC TRACY
© 2014 New York Times

Emails released as part of a lawsuit reveal that NCAA officials were unsure of their own authority to penalize Penn State in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sexual-abuse scandal. In one email, an official said that she told the NCAA's president, Mark Emmert, that sanctions would be a "bluff" and that he "bas-

cally agreed."

The emails were first reported this week by the Penn State blog Onward State. In 2012, Penn State agreed to NCAA sanctions including a \$60 million fine, the loss of multiple football scholarships, a four-year postseason ban and the vacating of all victories from 1998 to 2011, which dropped the former coach Joe Paterno from the top spot in the career wins list.

The sanctions were controversial, with critics saying that the details of the scandal made it best suited to the criminal justice system and that the NCAA had not followed its typical due process in issuing the punishment.

In September, because of what it said was good behavior, the NCAA rolled back some sanctions, restoring lost scholarships and allowing Penn State (4-4

overall this season, 1-4 in Big Ten play) to play in a bowl game as soon as this season.

The emails emerged as part of the discovery in a lawsuit against the NCAA by Jake Corman, a Pennsylvania state senator, over where the proceeds of the fine will go.

In 2012, Sandusky was convicted of sexually assaulting 10 boys. According to a report commissioned by

Penn State, known as the Freeh report, several university and team officials did not do enough to bring Sandusky's misdeeds to light.

The emails released Wednesday show that several NCAA officials questioned whether the scandal gave Penn State a "competitive advantage," which would more firmly have justified their involvement.

Bed position matters for stroke patients, report shows

© 2014 HealthDay

THURSDAY, Nov. 6, 2014

(HealthDay News) -- Hospital bed positioning can be critical in the first 24 hours after a person suffers an ischemic stroke, according to a new report.

Researchers summarized the latest research on ischemic stroke, the most common type of stroke, which occurs when a clot blocks blood flow to the brain. The other type is a bleeding (hemorrhagic) stroke.

"The period immediately

following an acute ischemic stroke is a time of significant risk," neurologists from Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., said. "Meticulous attention to the care of the stroke patient during this time can prevent further neurologic injury and minimize common complications, optimizing the chance of functional recovery." Sitting upright can harm ischemic stroke patients because it decreases blood flow to the brain

when it needs more blood, the researchers explained. This would suggest that it's best to keep these patients lying as flat as possible, but strokes can also cause brain swelling that can damage the brain. Keeping patients sitting upright helps improve blood drainage and reduces swelling, the authors noted.

"There are few data to guide decision making in this difficult situation," wrote Dr. Murray Flaster and colleagues in a Loyola

news release.

Another complicating factor is that some stroke patients have difficulty breathing while lying flat. In such cases, the head of the bed should be at the lowest elevation the patient can tolerate, according to the report published recently in the journal *MedLink Neurology*. The report examined many other issues in stroke care, such as: blood sugar control; blood pressure management; use of cholesterol-lowering statin

drugs; complications such as pneumonia and sepsis; heart attack and other heart problems; blood clots; infection; seizures; further strokes; brain swelling and bleeding; and malnutrition and aspiration.

Research has shown that patients treated at hospital units that specialize in stroke care are less likely to die, more likely to be able to return home, and have better functioning and quality of life, the report said.

Increased incidence of colon cancer forecast in young

Todd Ackerman

© 2014 Houston Chronicle

The incidence rate of bowel cancers should continue its steady decline in coming years, but a new Houston analysis projects a sharp increase in people younger than the recommended screening age.

The study by a team of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center surgical oncologists says that by 2030, one in four rectal cancers and one in nine colon cancers will be diagnosed in patients under 50.

The largest spike will be among those between 20 and 34, according to the study.

"This study shows the need to reverse this alarming trend," said Dr. George Chang, a professor of surgical oncology and the study's principal investigator. "If changes aren't made in public education and prevention efforts, this increase is the likely impact of colorectal cancer on

young people."

Previous studies have shown that incidence rates of colon and rectal cancer, or colorectal cancer,

based on recent trends. Incidence rates refer to the share of the population diagnosed with a condition. The research, which used a

people under 50 will double in the next 16 years, from roughly seven cases per 100,000 people to 14.

That would translate to more than 20,000 cases, up from about 15,000 today. Colorectal cancer is the nation's third most common and third most deadly kind of cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, 137,000 new cases of colorectal cancer are expected to be diagnosed in the United States in 2004, and more than 50,000 patients will die of the disease. Chang said the study, published Wednesday in *JAMA Surgery*, does not mean there should be an expansion in screening, which is partly credited with the decline in colorectal cancer among people 50 and older.

Widespread screening has come under fire in recent years because of the expense and evidence that it's better at detecting some cancers than saving

lives. Chang said expanded screening for colorectal cancer is a matter for further study.

Be alert to symptoms The study also did not look at reasons for the projected increase.

At least in part, Chang said, they likely involve lifestyle and behavioral factors such as obesity, physical inactivity and a Western diet high in fat and processed food - all known risk factors for colorectal cancer.

Rebecca Siegel, the cancer society's director of surveillance information, said the study will spur more research into early-onset colorectal cancer.

"But the take-home lesson for now is that both clinicians and individuals need to be more alert to symptoms of colon cancer regardless of age," said Siegel. "Neither usually think of colorectal cancer in younger patients. Both need to be more mindful of the possibility."



A sink within the patient's view at a redesigned hospital room at the University Medical Center of Princeton in Plainsboro, N.J. The incidence rate of bowel cancers should continue its steady decline in coming years, but a new Houston analysis projects a sharp increase in people younger than the recommended screening age.

(Laura Pedrick/The New York Times)

have been rising among younger people while declining overall, but the M.D. Anderson research is the first to provide projections

national database of nearly 400,000 colorectal patients diagnosed between 1975 and 2010, predicts the incidence rate among

PTSD in women has been linked to premature birth

© 2014 HealthDay

THURSDAY, Nov. 6, 2014

(HealthDay News) -- Having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) significantly increases a pregnant woman's risk of premature birth, according to a new study. Researchers examined more than 16,000 births involving female U.S. military veterans between 2000 and 2012, and found that having PTSD in the year before delivery increased the

risk of spontaneous premature birth by 35 percent.

In spontaneous premature birth, the mother goes into labor and delivers her baby more than three weeks early. These types of births typically account for about six deliveries for every 100 births, according to the researchers.

The study found that recent PTSD is associated with about two additional premature births for every

100 deliveries. Due to the design of the study, the researchers were only able to find an association between PTSD and premature birth. They couldn't prove that PTSD was the cause of the earlier deliveries.

Overall, there are about 12 premature births per 100 deliveries. Some of these occur due to medical problems involving the mother or baby, rather than because of spontane-

ous labor, according to the researchers.

"This study gives us a convincing epidemiological basis to say that, yes, PTSD is a risk factor for preterm delivery," study senior author Ciaran Phibbs, associate professor of pediatrics and an investigator at the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center at Stanford University, said in a university news release.

"Mothers with PTSD should

be treated as having high-risk pregnancies," Phibbs added. Phibbs noted that rates of spontaneous preterm birth have barely changed in the last 50 years. "Spontaneous preterm labor has been an intractable problem. Before we can come up with ways to prevent it, we need to have a better understanding of what the causes are. This is one piece of the puzzle," Phibbs said.



This product image provided by Amazon shows the Amazon Echo.

(AP Photo/Amazon)

Amazon: Voice recognition to be hot new service

NEW YORK (AP)—Siri, meet Alexa.

Amazon is introducing a voice-recognition service called Amazon Echo that comes with a speaker-like wireless device just in time for the holiday shopping season.

Responding to voice commands after the "wake word" Alexa, the device offers updates on news and weather and provides hands-free voice control for Amazon services such as Prime Music. It has an accompanying app for tablets and smartphones. Amazon has been expanding its offerings for members of its \$99 annual Prime loyalty club and other Amazon shoppers. It launched a smartphone, the Fire, earlier this year, and has offered a set-top video streaming device, a streaming video service, grocery delivery, music streaming and original TV shows such as the critically acclaimed "Transparent" starring Jeffrey Tambor.

The Echo, its latest offering, is available by email request only and costs \$199, or \$99 for Amazon Prime members. It competes with other voice-recognition services such as Apple's Siri.

"Amazon is the first to put a persistent microphone interface in your home, a listening and learning service that is ready to hear your every command," said Forrester Research analyst James McQuivey. □

Cybersecurity firm IDs new Apple-targeting malware

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

Palo Alto Networks has discovered a new form of malware that may have affected hundreds of thousands of Apple mobile device users, largely in China. The cybersecurity provider has named the malware WireLurker and said it monitors devices connected by a USB cable to an infected computer and installs malicious applications onto the device. The malware steals a variety of information

from mobile devices, but the goal of its creator isn't clear yet.

Palo Alto Networks said that while the malware allows an attacker to collect "significant amounts of information from a large number of Chinese iOS and Mac OS systems," none of it points to a particular motive.

The malware is "unlike anything we've ever seen" in terms of malware targeting Apple's iOS and OS X systems, said Ryan Olson,

a Palo Alto Networks intelligence director.

"The techniques in use suggest that bad actors are getting more sophisticated when it comes to exploiting some of the world's best-known desktop and mobile platforms," Olson said in a statement from the company.

Palo Alto Networks said late Wednesday that the malware is spreading through applications downloaded from Maiyadi App Store, a third-party Mac applica-

tions store in China. A total of 467 infected applications were downloaded more than 356,000 times over the past six months.

An Apple spokesman said the company is aware of the malicious software, and it has blocked the apps to prevent them from launching.

"As always, we recommend that users download and install software from trusted sources," the spokesman said in an email. □

Microsoft gives away Office apps for iPhone, iPad

BRANDON BAILEY
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Microsoft is offering free upgraded versions of its Office software for iPhones and iPads, as the software giant further embraces the so-called "freemium" strategy favored by many newer companies seeking success online.

Give away a basic version of a popular service, and the world may beat a path to your door and be willing to pay a little more for extras, or so the thinking goes.

Microsoft, the longtime king of desktop software, has generally protected its model of getting paid upfront for what it developed. But as the company strives to stay relevant for workers and consumers in an increasingly mobile world — and better compete with Google, Apple and others — it is offering substantial versions of its most popular products free of charge for smartphones and tablets. Microsoft is hoping to keep people using its products across all their devices, while betting that many will ultimately pay for fuller-featured versions of the software.

"There's going to be a handful of tech companies that everyone depends on," for online software, said Maribel Lopez, a mobile tech analyst at Lopez Research. "Microsoft wants to make sure they're one of them."

As more workers use devices other than desktop PCs, they want to have the

same capabilities on all their devices, says Michael Atalla, director of Microsoft's Office apps product management.

"We want to make sure they can move seamlessly from one to another," he added.

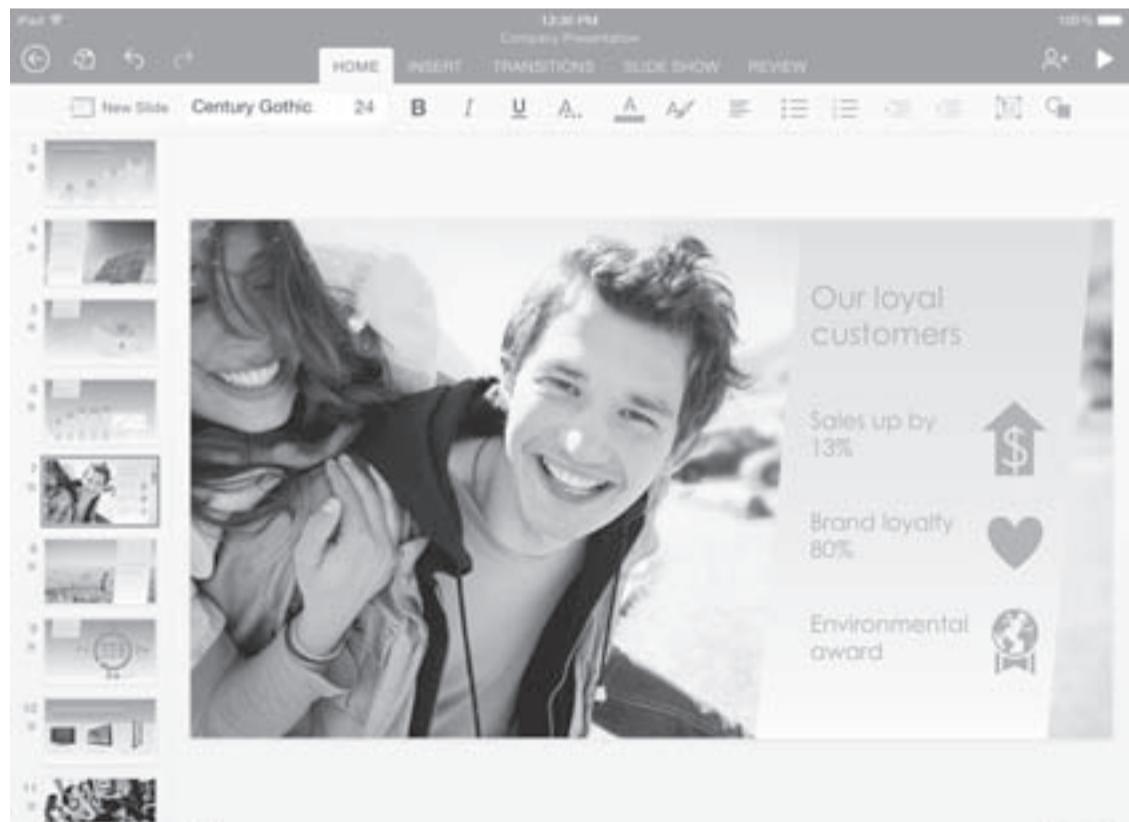
The apps released Thursday, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint, replace a

subscription to the company's Office 365 subscription service.

The new apps have more of the capabilities found in Office desktop software and don't require a paid subscription for creating files and other functions. Microsoft is still reserving some premium features,

for everybody," said Jan Dawson, chief analyst at Jackdaw Research. Businesses are increasingly willing to buy technology that their workers use at home, and that could shore up Microsoft's lucrative commercial business, Dawson said.

Although most of Microsoft



This screen shot provided by Microsoft shows the iPad version of the company's Microsoft PowerPoint app. Microsoft on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014 released new, beefed-up versions of its popular Office software apps for iPhones and iPads, as part of the company's push to stay relevant for workers in an increasingly mobile world.

(AP Photo/Microsoft)

limited iPhone version and upgrade a more powerful set of apps that the company released for iPad tablets in March. The older iPhone version allowed users to create and view files for free, but had very limited features. Earlier versions for the iPad offered more capabilities, but creating new files required a paid

including security tools for business users, for paid subscribers. Microsoft will continue to charge for Office 365 on PCs and for business users.

The company seems to be thinking, "We'll perhaps sacrifice a little bit of revenue on the consumer side to make sure Office remains the standard

Corp.'s revenue still comes from traditional software, CEO Satya Nadella wants to shift the company's focus to mobile and web-based products. The Redmond, Washington company recently said it delayed producing a new version of Office for Apple's Mac computers so it could focus on mobile apps. □

Dow, S&P 500 step further into record territory

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Solid profits for big companies and optimistic economic news helped nudge the stock market to another record high Thursday.

In European markets, losses turned to gains when the head of the European Central Bank said he was ready to take more steps to revive the region's struggling economy. The news knocked the euro to a two-year low against the dollar. Whole Foods Market jumped 12 percent, the biggest gain in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, after reporting higher quarterly earnings than analysts had expected. Whole Foods climbed \$4.33 to end the day at \$44.34.

"The news is encouraging today," said David Joy, chief market strategist at Ameriprise Financial. "It's especially nice to see the European Central Bank saying the right things."

The S&P 500 edged up 7.64 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 2,031.21. That put the benchmark index for most mutual funds up 0.7 percent for the week.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 69.94 points, or 0.4 percent, to 17,554.47, while the Nasdaq composite gained 17.75 points, also 0.4 percent, to 4,638.47. Stronger earnings results from Caterpillar, Microsoft and other corporate giants have helped push the market higher over recent weeks. Third-quarter earnings for S&P 500 companies are on track to rise nearly 9 percent, according to S&P

Capital IQ. Before results began to roll in, analysts had estimated earnings would increase 6 percent. "What's really important about this earnings season is that CEOs are no longer saying, 'We can survive.' They're saying, 'We're expanding our business,'" said JJ Kinahan, TD Ameri-

Mario Draghi, the head of the European Central Bank, said he would consider more unconventional measures, such as large-scale bond purchases, to pump money into the economy, "if needed." The ECB has come under increasing pressure to provide more support for Eu-

takes the slightest suggestion that further easing is likely, or that (bond-buying) is a possibility, and the markets go wild." European stock markets turned higher after Draghi's talk. Germany's DAX closed with a gain of 0.7 percent, while the CAC-40 in France gained 0.5 percent. The



Trader Peter Tuchman, foreground right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Solid profits for big companies and optimistic economic news helped nudge the stock market to another record high Thursday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

trade's chief strategist. "There's a note of optimism we haven't heard in a long time." After the close of regular trading on Wednesday, Tesla Motors posted results that beat Wall Street's estimates and also reported record deliveries of its flagship sedan, the Model S. Tesla's stock gained \$10.25, or 4 percent, to \$241.22. In Europe,

Europe's recovery and prevent prices from falling. Draghi spoke following the ECB's decision to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0.05 percent, a record low. "Draghi has a tendency to cause hysteria in the markets even when he potentially doesn't mean to," said Craig Erlam, market analyst at Alpari. "It only

FTSE 100 index of leading British shares picked up 0.2 percent. Draghi's comments also helped push the euro lower. The currency fell from \$1.252 before he began talking to \$1.239, its lowest level since August 2010. Back in the U.S., government bond prices fell, nudging the yield on the 10-year Treasury note up to 2.37 percent. □

Home Depot:

Hackers also stole 53 million email addresses

A. D'INNOCENZIO
S. SKIDMORE
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Home Depot said Thursday that hackers stole 53 million email addresses in addition to data from millions of payment cards.

The nation's largest home improvement chain said Thursday that hackers stole 53 million customer email addresses from April

to September. It had disclosed in September that 56 million debit and credit cards were compromised. Home Depot said the file containing the email addresses did not contain passwords or other sensitive personal information. However, it said that customers should be on guard against phishing scams that might trick them into sharing personal

information. It is notifying affected customers in the U.S. and Canada.

Phishing attacks sent through texts or emails and try to trap you into disclosing personal information.

Home Depot also said that the hackers initially accessed its network from a third-party vendor with a vendor's username and password.

Home Depot is one of several retailers that have reported large hacks over the past year. Target's pre-Christmas 2013 breach compromised 40 million credit and debit cards and hurt sales and profits. Michaels, Super-Valu and Neiman Marcus have also reported breaches. Shoppers appear to have grown numb to the problem. □

Deutsche Telekom net profit drops 14% under investments

MARK SCOTT
© 2014 New York Times

LONDON — Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest telecommunications carrier by revenue, reported Thursday a 14 percent decline in net profit during the third quarter, as investments in its core markets in Germany and the United States weighed on the company's performance.

The carrier, a former German monopoly, is facing increased competition on both sides of the Atlantic. It has outlined a series of infrastructure investments in high-speed mobile and broadband networks to keep pace with rivals like Verizon Wireless in the United States and Vodafone in Britain.

The company also reported a slight rise in its third-quarter revenue to 15.6 billion euros (\$19.5 billion). Despite the fall in its net profit, it continued to add customers to T-Mobile US, its U.S. subsidiary that now represents 35 percent of its quarterly revenue.

Deutsche Telekom is jockeying for position before expected changes in how Europe's telecom industry is regulated. That may lead to another round of consolidation between mobile carriers and cable operations as well as greater spending to keep pace with consumers' appetite for mobile access. These investments, coupled with continuing economic malaise in some of the company's European markets, led to a drop in its net profit for the three months through Sept. 30 to 506 million euros (\$633 million) compared with the same period last year. The figure included the sale of its Bulgarian assets.

"The challenges vary regionally, but we are clearly making progress everywhere," Deutsche Telekom's chief executive, Timotheus Höttges, said Thursday.

In Germany, where the likes of Telefónica of Spain are also investing heavily in Europe's largest economy, Deutsche Telekom has been forced to keep pace with its own infrastructure upgrades. □

Siemens net profit up 40 percent, outlook cautious

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Industrial equipment maker Siemens says quarterly net profit rose 40 percent but issued a cautious outlook for the coming year, saying global tensions would affect its business and predicting flat revenue.

Siemens also said Thursday it was selling its hearing-aid business to the investment company EQT and Germany's Struengmann

family of entrepreneurs for 2.15 billion euros (\$2.68 billion).

Net income for the quarter ending Sept. 30, the company's fiscal fourth, rose to 1.50 billion euros (\$1.87 billion) from 1.07 billion euros in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue was flat at 20.56 billion euros. Sales and profit figures beat estimates compiled by financial information provider FactSet.

Profits were dented by the company's energy division, where it took 223 million euros in charges for troubles with wind turbines which needed to have main bearings replaced and suffered blade damage from rough weather. The Munich-based maker of heavy equipment including trains, medical imaging machines and power turbines said that the business environment

would be "complex" in 2015, among other things due to geopolitical tensions. Siemens is active all over the world including the Middle East and Russia, where trade has been put under pressure by sanctions imposed by Western governments over Russia's conflict with Ukraine.

The company said that gains from selling businesses would enable the com-

pany to increase earnings per share by at least 15 percent in the coming year.

Siemens had originally planned a share offering for its hearing aid-business but said it found the offer from EQT and the Struengmann family "very attractive." The deal must still pass regulatory approval. Siemens AG shares traded up 1.53 percent at 90.17 euros. □

Takata's annual loss to widen over more recalls

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Takata Corp., the Japanese air bag maker embroiled in a massive recall totaling some 12 million vehicles globally, is taking more special losses for new recalls and will sink deeper into the red.

Takata, which controls about 22 percent of the global air bag market, said Thursday it will record a 25 billion yen (\$218 million) loss for the fiscal year through March 2015. It previously forecast a 24 million yen (\$210 million) loss.

Takata air bags are suspected in fatalities and injuries involving several defects, including a faulty inflator suspected of exploding and hurling shrapnel toward drivers and passengers. Safety advocates say defective air bags caused four deaths in the U.S.

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion is investigating, especially the question of whether Takata and auto-

Earlier this week, NHTSA demanded more documents from Japanese automaker

da may have failed to report incidents related to the problem air bags.



Child seats, manufactured by Takata Corp. are displayed at a Toyota Motor Corp.'s showroom in Tokyo Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. Takata, the Japanese air bag maker embroiled in a massive recall totaling some 12 million vehicles globally, says it's taking more special losses for new recalls and will sink deeper into the red for the fiscal year.

makers that use its air bags acted quickly enough once the defects were suspected.

Honda Motor Co., which has reported the biggest number of Takata air bag related recalls. It said Hon-

da may have failed to report incidents related to the problem air bags.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Eight million of the recalls are in the U.S., including vehicles made by Honda, Toyota Motor Corp.,

General Motors Co. and other automakers. Globally, the recalls involve 10 automakers, and various nations, including Japan, China and Europe.

Takata, which again apologized for the problems, had already booked a special loss of 45 billion yen (\$393 million) for the April-June period for the ballooning recalls.

It will take an additional special loss of 2.3 billion yen (\$20 million) for additional recalls announced recently by Toyota, Honda and Nissan Motor Co.

The latest problem to surface stems from a production error that crept into some vehicles starting in 2009 and lasting through June this year, according to Takata.

The Tokyo-based manufacturer reported a July-September loss of 35 billion yen (\$306 million), a reversal from 769 million yen in profit for the same period a year earlier. □

Movie and theme park successes spur profits at Disney

BROOKS BARNES
© 2014 New York Times

LOS ANGELES - Disney ended its fiscal year Thursday with \$7.5 billion in profit, a 22 percent increase from 2013, as hit movies and higher theme park spending combined to offset higher sports rights costs at ESPN.

For its fourth quarter, which ended on Sept. 27, the Walt Disney Co. reported a profit of \$1.5 billion, or 86 cents a share, an 8 percent increase from \$1.39 billion,

or 77 cents a share, a year earlier. Excluding certain one-time items, per-share profit for the most recent quarter totaled 89 cents, beating analysts' expectations.

Revenue totaled \$12.39 billion in the quarter, a 7 percent increase, and \$48.81 billion for the year, an 8 percent increase. Robert A. Iger, Disney's chief executive and chairman, called the annual results "the highest in the company's history, marking our

fourth consecutive year of record performance."

Walt Disney Studios provided the biggest boost, as the global blockbusters "Maleficent," "Guardians of the Galaxy," "Captain America 2: The Winter Soldier" and "Frozen" showered the company in income from the box office, home entertainment and merchandise sales. For the quarter, operating income at the studio more than doubled, to \$254 million; for the year, income to-

taled \$1.55 billion, up from \$661 million.

Operating income at Disney's theme park division climbed 20 percent in the last quarter, to \$687 million, because of higher ticket prices and increased food and merchandise spending at domestic parks. Disneyland Paris continued to lose money - the company recently unveiled a \$1.25 billion bailout plan - but Disney's other overseas parks helped pick up the slack.

ESPN powered Disney's television division to \$7.32 billion in operating income for the year, a 7 percent increase. But the sports colossus had a challenging fourth quarter; operating income for the television division was flat, at \$1.43 billion, as improved ESPN advertising sales were dented by contractual rate increases for Major League Baseball, the National Football League, college football and other programming rights. □

Toy soldiers, Rubik's Cube in US Toy Hall of Fame

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)

— The small, green plastic soldiers that have been popular for generations were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame on Thursday, along with the 1980s stumper Rubik's Cube, and bubbles.

The trio of toys takes its place alongside other classics including Barbie, G.I. Joe, Scrabble and the hula hoop after beating out nine other finalists including Fisher-Price Little People, American Girl dolls and My Little Pony.

The unbendable, monotone army men have been around since 1938, with ups and downs along the way. Their popularity waned during the Vietnam War but they became big-screen stars with the 1995 Pixar movie "Toy Story" and several manufacturers continue to produce millions of them every year.

The army men were finalists two other years before making the cut this time around, offering hope to this year's also-rans, which also included Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Slip 'N Slide, the skill game Operation, paper airplanes, pots and pans, and the toy trucks sold annually since 1964 by the Hess gas station chain.

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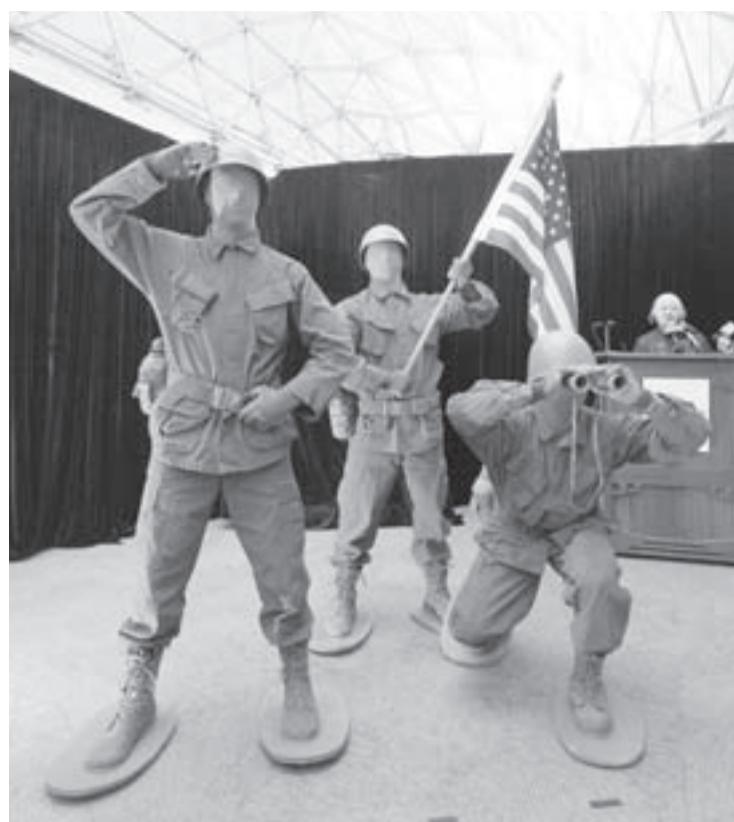
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Actors portraying little green army men pose at the National Museum of Play at The Strong Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, in Rochester, N.Y. The molded plastic must-haves for generations of pretend soldiers were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame on Thursday, along with the 1980s stumper Rubik's Cube, and bubbles.

(AP Photo/Democrat & Chronicle, Carlos Ortiz)

The brain-teasing Rubik's Cube was invented by Hungarian architect Erno Rubik in the 1970s, but took off in the United States in 1980 after being imported by Ideal Toy Corp. More than

100 million of the six-color cubes were sold between 1980 and 1982, dividing an obsessively twisting populace between those who could solve it and those who could not. □

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Aruba TODAY **BONDIA ARUBA**

How to reach us!

A magnifying glass is focused on a map of downtown Aruba, specifically the area around the Royal Plaza Mall and the High Rise Hotels. The map shows Weststraat, Schepstraat, and Caya G.F. Belico Croes.

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NASA test flight still on track despite accidents

MARICA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — NASA's biggest test flight in years remains on track for next month, despite last week's space-related accidents.

Officials said Thursday everything looks good for the Dec. 4 launch of NASA's new Orion capsule. This one will not carry a crew. Future Orions are meant to carry astronauts on missions of deep-space exploration, including, one day, trips to Mars.

The spacecraft will blast off atop a Delta IV rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The four-hour flight will send it on two laps around Earth — and as far as 3,600 miles (5,793 kilometers) into space — before parachuting into the Pacific, Apollo style. William Hill, who helps run exploration systems development for NASA, said the test flight systems have nothing in common with either the Orbital Sciences rocket that blew up at liftoff on Oct. 28 or the Virgin Galactic SpaceShip Two destroyed in flight last Friday. So no reviews were needed, and no plans have been changed.

"Space operations is hard, and they proved that last week," Hill told reporters. "It was a tough week. It's a tough business we're in." Mark Geyer, Orion's program manager for NASA,



NASA's Orion spacecraft, preparing for its first flight, departs the Neil Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building on its way to the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Officials said Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, that everything looks good for the Dec. 4 launch of NASA's new Orion capsule. (AP Photo/John Raoux)

said even before the back-to-back accidents, everyone involved with the

upcoming test flight recognized just how difficult it is to send up spacecraft,

especially those designed for humans. The two events serve as an important re-

minder more than anything, he said.

The whole idea of the test flight, Geyer said, is "to learn about where the challenges are so we can minimize the risk when we actually put people on board." The capsule will be equipped with 1,200 sensors to measure vibration, heat and noise, among other things.

The flight test readiness review a couple weeks ago already was "very thorough," Geyer noted, and the NASA-Lockheed Martin Corp. team is going into it with "our eyes wide open and making sure that we all understand the risks."

NASA is paying Lockheed Martin to carry out this mission, which is valued at \$370 million, excluding the Orion capsule itself. □

Half of all stars may lie outside galaxies

MARICA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — The universe may be full of reclusive stars — not washed-up Hollywood stars, but the kind lurking deep in the cosmos.

Scientists reported Thursday that as many as half of all stars may lie outside galaxies.

Individually, these lone-some stars are too faint to detect. But together, they create a hazy background of fluctuating near-infrared

light. A team of astronomers from the U.S., Japan and Korea say the diffuse glow appears to be from

gy and his colleagues were made on two suborbital rocket flights, launched in 2010 and 2012 from New



A windmill is silhouetted against a starry sky during a time exposure in a field near Randolph, Kan. Scientists reported Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, that as many as half of all stars may lie outside galaxies. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

stars booted out of their galaxies by mergers and collisions.

The measurements by Michael Zemcov of the California Institute of Technolo-

gy and his colleagues were made on two suborbital rocket flights, launched in 2010 and 2012 from New

galaxies is as bright as all the known galaxies combined, and is redefining galaxies. Instead of having sharp edges, galaxies may spread out like a starry web, connecting all the galaxies together.

"Traditionally, we've talked about galaxies as disks or sometimes spheroids that have a finite extent. They run out of stars and gas at a certain radius," Zemcov told reporters. While scientists previously have known about these halos around galaxies, "these halos seem to be extending farther out than we thought and is responsible for more light than we thought."

Details of this Cosmic Infrared Background Experiment — CIBER for short — appear in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

More CIBER flights are planned for better measurements; there have been four to date. □

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Miranda Lambert, left, and Meghan Trainor perform onstage at the 48th annual CMA Awards at the Bridgestone Arena on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn.

(Wade Payne/Invision/AP)

Miranda Lambert makes history with 2014 CMAs

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

— Miranda Lambert has reached new heights as a female country performer: The fiery singer is the most decorated female artist in the history of the Country Music Association Awards. Lambert's four wins Wednesday night give the 30-year-old a total of 11 CMA trophies throughout her career, putting her ahead of any other female act. Lambert's fifth consecutive win for female vocalist of the year Wednesday beat a record set by herself, Reba McEntire and Martina McBride.

Lambert also took home album of the year for "Platinum," single of the year for "Automatic" and music event of the year for "We Were Us" with Keith Urban. "It's really unbelievable," she said backstage. "I felt like this whole night was about really celebrating music."

Lambert lost the night's top award to Luke Bryan, giving the 38-year-old his first CMA. The win for entertainer of the year marked a shift in the genre, which has shunned the party-boy singer who is the leader of the contemporary pack of bro-country performers, which includes acts like Florida Georgia Line.

"I have longed and sought after to get one of these in my hands. ... To get the respect of the CMA board ... is a ginormous deal," a happy Bryan said backstage. □

stage. "I am really humbled. I think about the hard work it took to get here. I am so blessed this is from the CMAs and I will never take it for granted."

Bryan beat out George Strait, Blake Shelton and Urban for entertainer of the year, and his successful year included the top-selling album "Crash My Party," a string of hit songs and a top-grossing tour.

Bryan also was named last year's entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards. He was snubbed when the Grammy Awards revealed their nominees last year, but his CMA win could help him earn some love from the Recording Academy when it announces its nominations next month.

Lambert, too, could be bringing home some Grammy gold since she was the reigning queen of Wednesday's awards show. She stole the night with fashion choices that were winners, too, and performances. She sang twice onstage, including a country-tinged version of "All About That Bass" with breakthrough singer Meghan Trainor, where Shelton looked up and bopped his head.

Shelton, like his wife, made CMA history: He tied Strait and Vince Gill for five wins for male vocalist of the year.

"For me and my family, this may be the biggest night of our lives as far as music goes," Shelton said backstage. □

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd accused of murder-for-hire plot

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)

— Australian rock band AC/DC says the arrest of its drummer in an alleged murder-for-hire plot won't affect its upcoming tour or album release.

Phil Rudd, a band member off-and-on for nearly three decades, was accused Thursday of trying to arrange two killings as well as possession of drugs.

AC/DC released a state-

ment that said Rudd, who was released on bail, has also been charged with threatening to kill and possession of methamphetamine and marijuana. One of the conditions is that he must not have any contact with anyone involved in the alleged plot.

A judge suppressed the names of the alleged intended victims and would-be hit man, the newspaper said.

The court declined to re-

members of AC/DC were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003.

"Featuring guitarist Angus Young as their visual symbol and musical firebrand, they grew from humble origins in Australia to become an arena-filling phenomenon with worldwide popularity. They did so without gimmickry, except for Angus's schoolboy uniform, which became mandatory stage attire," said the Hall of Fame's biography.



Phil Rudd, the drummer for rock band AC/DC, leaves a court house in Tauranga, New Zealand, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, after being charged with attempting to procure murder. The 60-year-old has also been charged with threatening to kill and possession of methamphetamine and marijuana.

(AP Photo/George Novak)

ment through publicist Benny Tarantini on Thursday saying band members had "only become aware of Phil's arrest as the news was breaking."

"We have no further comment. Phil's absence will not affect the release of our new album 'Rock or Bust' and upcoming tour next year."

"Rock or Bust" is due to be released on Dec. 2 and will be the band's first new studio album in six years. The band plans to promote it during a world tour next year.

Rudd, 60, appeared briefly at the Tauranga District Court in his adopted home of New Zealand and was charged with attempting to procure murder, which carries a maximum prison term of 10 years. Rudd,

lease further details.

Rudd's lawyer Paul Mabey said he was still getting up to speed on the case and had no comment. Mabey was out of town attending a trial when he heard about the charges, he said.

The Bay of Plenty Times newspaper reported that the Australian-born Rudd was accused of trying to hire a hit man to carry out the two killings. Police raided Rudd's home Thursday morning, according to the paper, and held him in custody until his court appearance.

Court staff said Rudd was due to make a second appearance Nov. 27, although that date could change. He has yet to enter a plea.

Rudd and the other mem-

According to the biography, Rudd first joined AC/DC in 1974, the year after it was started. Other reports indicate he left the band in 1983 but rejoined again in 1994. The Bay of Plenty Times reported that Rudd first moved to New Zealand in 1983, during the period when he had left the band, and in 2011 bought a Tauranga restaurant he named Phil's Place.

Tauranga is a tranquil coastal city of 110,000. Its warm climate has made it popular with retirees, although it now has a fast-growing younger population too; The restaurant's website says it represents Rudd's long-held vision to "offer you fresh local food at affordable prices delivered by warm and friendly staff." □

James Franco helps 'event cinema' come of age

MARK KENNEDY**AP Drama Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — A new James Franco flick hits movie theaters this week with all the stuff you want in a gripping drama — a pretty girl, some scary dudes, a murder or two and Franco holding a gun.

But hold onto your popcorn: It's not really a movie. It's actually a play. Well, to be more precise, it's a play acting like a movie.

A high-definition broadcast of Franco starring on Broadway in John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" — the \$3.8 million, record-breaking show at the Longacre Theatre — will compete with the movies "Interstellar" and "Nightcrawler" at the box office, and it marks an important milestone.

While a few Broadway shows have been broadcast — including "Memphis" and the Orlando Bloom-led "Romeo and Juliet" — this is the first time

the National Theatre Live series, the gold standard, has chosen a Broadway

will be announced later. Franco himself pushed for the honor, saying he want-

play seen by many more than those who could afford Broadway prices. The



This image released by Polk & Co. shows James Franco, right, and Chris O'Dowd in a scene from "Of Mice and Men," in New York. A high-definition broadcast of Franco starring on Broadway this summer in John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" will compete with the movies "Nightcrawler" and "Gone Girl" at the box office, and it marks an important milestone.

(AP Photo/Polk & Co., Richard Phibbs)

show to beam into over 900 venues across the U.S. and Canada. U.K. dates

ed a way to recognize a great group of actors and creators, and to get the

broadcast will cost about \$20, or six times less than the average stage ticket.

"Even though it will never have 100 percent of the live feeling, it will still have energy," he said. "I'm glad that it exists in what I think is the absolute best we could do at capturing a live performance."

The landmark broadcast on Thursday comes at a time when so-called event cinema has exploded. When once there was just the Metropolitan Opera at the movie theater, now there's the Bolshoi Ballet, concerts from One Direction and a steady stream of English plays.

Other brands jumping in include The Royal Ballet, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Monty Python and the Big Apple Circus. Movie patrons can even enjoy museum exhibitions, like one on Pompeii from the British Museum.

"I think the demand for the content has always been there. But technology — in terms of the theaters and how to get the content to the theaters and how to serve mass and niche audiences — is making it easier for us to serve more diverse audiences," said John Rubey, the CEO of Fathom Events, an industry leader.

The segment is a small but growing part of the overall movie business. The Event Cinema Association predicts broadcasts will grow to 5 percent of the overall global cinema box office by 2015 and pull in \$1 billion by 2017. Some movie theaters already say that event cinema is responsible for as much as 18 percent of their box-office revenue. Since its launch in 2009, National Theatre broadcasts from England have included "Frankenstein" with Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller, Sam Mendes' "King Lear" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" with Gillian Anderson. In five years, it has grown from 250 screens worldwide to 1,500 in the U.S., United Kingdom, Australia and Europe.

David Sabel, head of digital at the National, said from London that his team was looking for the right Broadway show and "Of Mice and Men" fit the bill. □

Springsteen auctions guitars, lasagna for veterans



Patti Scialfa, left, and Bruce Springsteen perform at the 8th Annual Stand Up For Heroes, presented by the New York Comedy Festival and The Bob Woodruff Foundation, at the Theater at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, in New York.

(Photo by Brad Barket/Invision/AP)

LOU FERRARA**Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — How much for a guitar played by Bruce Springsteen, an hour lesson on how to play it, a lasagna dinner at his house and a ride in the sidecar of his motorcycle? \$300,000.

Springsteen auctioned off two such packages Wednesday night at Stand Up For Heroes, a mash-up of comedy and music involving this week's New York Comedy Festival and the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which helps military

service members and their families after they return home. The foundation is named for the ABC news anchor injured while working in Iraq in 2006.

Springsteen played a five-song solo acoustic set that included "Growin' Up,"

"Dancing in the Dark" and "Born in the U.S.A." to a crowd of fans, military leaders, servicemen and women and corporate executives at the Theater at Madison Square Garden. Springsteen's opening acts were big names themselves: comedians John Oliver, Jon Stewart, Louis C.K. and Jim Gaffigan.

"I should not be alive right now," Woodruff said in opening the show, noting the military personnel who helped save his life in a war zone. Woodruff also led a moment of silence for Robin Williams, the comic who died over the summer and had previously participated in the fundraiser, now in its eighth year.

The night raised more than \$1 million, with Springsteen's packages making up more than half of the contributions. Overall, Stand Up For Heroes has raised \$6 million this year. The night also included a surprise performance by Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who sang "New York, New York." □

Guns and Public Health



JOE NOCERA

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Mike Weisser is my favorite gun dealer. The longtime proprietor of the Ware Gun Shop in Ware, Massachusetts, Weisser, 70, estimates he has sold more than 40,000 guns in his career as a wholesaler and retailer. He also has a nice little business teaching a gun-safety course that Massachusetts requires of all new gun owners.

"I love guns," he told me unabashedly when we spoke the other day. With a chuckle, he added, "I just bought one yesterday."

There's something else about Weisser: He strongly believes that the country needs a new approach to guns and gun violence - an approach that is more data-driven, less hyperbolic, and that emphasizes the public health aspect of gun violence. Using the pen name Mike the Gun Guy, Weisser writes a blog at The Huffington Post that encapsulates his approach. He is one of the few who has focused on suicides, which make up two-thirds of all gun deaths. He has called out gun control advocates from time to time; he mainly thinks they are too often passive when confronted with the tactics of the National Rifle Association.

But he has also been relentless in taking on the NRA. He does not believe that the Second Amendment means that people ought to be able to take a gun anywhere they want. He includes in his emails a quote from the novelist Walter Mosley: "If you carry a gun, it's bound to go off sooner or later." A website called AmmoLand has described him as "basically a double agent agent [sic] working to undermine our Second [Amendment rights] with his articles."

Of all the things Weisser advocates, the issue he is most passionate about is the need for doctors to become part of the debate over gun safety. More than that, he believes that doctors need to be talking about guns in terms of their effect on public health, both to their own patients and to the public at large. In his view, "doctors allowed themselves to get pushed out of the gun debate" during the time of the assault-weapons ban and other gun restrictions that were passed during Bill Clinton's presidency. "When the debate was about smoking, it was always a health issue, and doctors played a central role," he

says. "But the debate over guns became about their social utility rather than the public health aspects. And that is exactly how the NRA wants the issue framed." Thus, though he has no medical credentials himself (his wife is a pediatrician, he noted), Weisser helped organize an important conference that is scheduled to take place next month in Massachusetts. Its title is "Caring for the Patient at Risk for Gun Violence: Medical, Legal, Ethical Issues," and it will be the first Continuing Medical Education-accredited conference held on gun violence. One of the conference's goals, says Weisser, is to help emergency-room physicians identify at-risk patients - those who are in the ER because they've been attacked by someone or have threatened to kill themselves - and use evidence-based strategies to intervene before it's too late.

Shannon Frattaroli, of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, told me that one important question is whether physicians can intervene before the criminal justice system does. "Do we have to wait for a crime to know if someone is at risk?" she asked. The clinical setting, she added, was a good place to address that question because doctors regularly had intimate conversations with their patients.

David Hemenway, the director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, told me that physicians, for the most part, really don't have a way to talk to their patients about guns. "That's one of the reasons we need this conference," he said. "Physicians give a lot of anticipatory guidance - should an elderly person give up driving? Those are tough conversations." Hemenway said that the injury center is very focused on suicide: "One of the things we really know about guns is that when a gun is in the house, it increases the risk for suicide." Talking to someone who might be at risk for suicide about guns should be a no-brainer. But then he added with a sigh: "When people say guns, it is a cultural war." He noted that Vivek Murthy, the doctor nominated by President Barack Obama to be the surgeon general a year ago, hasn't been able to get a vote in the Senate because he has said publicly that gun violence is a public health issue. "It's all so politicized," he said.

Indeed, it is. In Florida, there is a 3-year-old law on the books that makes it difficult for doctors to even have a conversation with patients about guns. Since then, similar laws have been proposed in some 10 other states, though only Missouri has managed to get its version passed. But it's another reason that doctors tend to be cautious when the subject is guns. I asked Weisser how his business has been. He told me that he stopped selling guns at retail earlier this year. He was too busy with the conference. It could be the beginning of something big. □



Always Look on the Bright Side



GAIL COLLINS

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Our topic for today is: looking on the postelection bright side.

The polling places hadn't even opened before the Senate's right-wing firebrand, Ted Cruz, was demanding that the majority-leader in-waiting, Mitch McConnell, take a hard line against President Barack Obama or risk losing his new job. Cruz is from Texas, and he wants to re-create the Alamo, if you can imagine Obamacare in disguise as the Mexican army.

Think of that as a plus. The one thing McConnell and his supporters dislike more than the Democratic agenda is Ted Cruz. It could be an important bonding opportunity. Obama has never spent much time with the Republican leadership, but now you can sort of imagine them sitting around, sipping drinks and making fun of what Cruz said on Fox News.

Another potential downer: Republicans have fewer veteran women in the Senate, so when they take over there will be fewer women running important committees. But, on the plus side, the overall number of women in Congress will rise, albeit at a rate that would get us to equal representation sometime around 2078. Once all the votes are counted, says Debbie Walsh, the director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, the percentage of women in the House

and Senate, now 18.2 percent, will, at best, go up to "maybe 19.3" percent.

"We're calling it Not a Landmark Year," Walsh said.

This could be a useful exercise in living with lowered expectations. Washington might actually want to embrace "Not a Landmark Year" as a slogan. If Cruz tries to get the House Republicans to run the country off a fiscal cliff, the moderates could start chanting: "NALY! NALY!"

Let's try one more positive interpretation of what the election has wrought: There's a school of thought that believes Tuesday was actually a great day for reproductive rights. Let me take you through it.

The front lines of the anti-abortion movement belong to the "personhood" people, who strive to give constitutional rights and protections to the "pre-born" from the moment of conception. When Americans are confronted with this idea, they quickly come to hate it. Personhood amendments have been defeated wherever they pop up, including Mississippi. This year, one was rejected in Colorado for the third time, by around 65 percent to 35 percent. A personhood amendment lost in North Dakota, 64 percent to 36 percent. In addition, the state senator who was its major sponsor lost her re-election bid, as did one of the measure's more outspoken House supporters.

We are only mentioning those last details because the number of state legislators who are defeated for re-election in this country is about as low as the number of state legislators who are endowed with the power of levitation.

This year, not only were the personhood proposals rejected, candidates who had previously supported the movement started madly backing away. The most famous example was in Colorado, where Rep. Cory Gardner, the Republican Senate candidate, suddenly realized a state personhood amendment was a "bad idea." In a move that left debate questioners in

credulous, Gardner insisted that a personhood bill he had co-sponsored in Congress would have no effect but was "simply a statement that I support life."

Gardner also announced that he believed birth control pills should be available over the counter. He made a TV ad about it and sent out pink mailings.

Gardner's turnaround was so swift and strange that the incumbent senator, Mark Udall, made it the center of his campaign. A Denver Post editorial claimed it was Udall's "obnoxious" obsession. Now to me, obnoxious is a candidate who steals his opponent's yard signs. Or who opposes abortions except for the one he pressured his mistress to get, like that guy in Tennessee. But whatever, Udall lost.

Planned Parenthood sent out a news release describing Colorado as an absolute triumph: "Voters have made clear that you can't win statewide elections in Colorado by openly opposing women's health and restricting access to safe and legal abortion."

The theory here - and I am really going to go with it - is that the real story is not anti-choice Republicans weaseling around their political history, but voters of America forcing anti-choice candidates to change their positions.

"Cory Gardner ran aggressively as a supporter of women's issues. It was sort of a miraculous conversion. We'll be happy to hold him to it," said Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, in a phone interview.

The question is what happens when people like Gardner get into office. McConnell promised that he'd bring up a bill in the Senate banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Would the repentant personhood backers go along? At the very least, they would appear to be obliged to add language vastly expanding women's access to free birth control.

OK, it's not an ideal compromise. But then it's not a landmark year. □

Bringing Mom & Dad to Work Bridges Generation Gap

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)

— Seta Whitford-Stark was dumbfounded last year when she found out her daughter Amy quit her job at an employee-recruiting agency to work for LinkedIn, an Internet company that Seta had never heard of. Amy tried to explain what the online professional networking service did, but Seta couldn't quite

showcase the cultural and technological changes that have transformed the modern workplace.

Conceived by LinkedIn last year, more than 50 companies and other organizations in 16 countries are now embracing this generational spin on the take-the-kids-to-work craze that began a couple decades ago. Companies realize that some parents who once tried to enlighten

Daughter To Work" day. She never thought the tables would someday be turned. Riley, now a LinkedIn recruiting director, celebrated her 24th birthday Thursday hosting her mom and dad, Jon Sisk, at LinkedIn's Mountain View, California headquarters.

"It's a sign of the times, how much things have changed," says Margie, 50. "We could have never taken our own parents to

with a creative workforce that has a lot of twenty-somethings walking around in T-shirts and jeans," says Stoddart, whose 77-year-old mother flew in from Cleveland to attend Thursday's event. The agenda includes lessons on how to use Twitter, glimpses at past and future ad campaigns and live music performed by "Bassel and the Supernaturals," one of the bands that the agency has been

surprised by how much freedom LinkedIn's workers seemed to have while he accompanied his daughter, Jill Hirz-Jones, to LinkedIn's inaugural parent's day last year. It was a stark difference to his 45-year career as an auto mechanic, a job that required him to account for his whereabouts and activity virtually every minute of his shift.

Getting an inside glimpse of LinkedIn also gave Joe, who didn't have a television set at home until he was 10 years old, a better understanding of how technology has changed the way people find jobs today. More than 332 million people have set up profiles on LinkedIn pages where they share their career accomplishments, turning the service into a popular way to connect employers with talented workers.

"In my era, jobs came through word of mouth from your friends or in classified ads in newspapers," Joe says. "Now, it seems like you can get information almost immediately on a phone, including finding a job just about anywhere in the world."

Jill, 29, says it's now much easier to discuss work with her dad after last year's visit gave him a window into her corporate communications job.

"For him, working in a garage, communications meant speaking really loudly so everyone could hear him," Jill says. "Now, it's easier for him to understand when I am talking about a challenge on our communications team."

Some companies participating in "Bring In Your Parents Day" may be motivated by more than enlightening parents, says Brad Sago, a Wheaton College professor of business and management who specializes in generation-gap issues.

"Getting parents on their team is another way for companies to build brand equity," says Sago. "They are creating a company advocate, which is important because these parents are still influential in many children's lives." □



LinkedIn employee Mark Smyth, center, poses for photos in front of a balloon decoration with the hashtag #BIYP (Bring In Your Parents) with his parents Josephine, left, and Charles, during the company's second annual "Bring In Your Parents Day," Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, at LinkedIn headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. The event gives adult children a rare opportunity to showcase the cultural and technological changes that have transformed the modern workplace.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

grasp the concept or why the 29-year-old would want to work there.

"Oh my God, what has she gotten herself into?" Seta, now 73, recalls muttering to herself.

Then Seta got to observe Amy and her colleagues in action at LinkedIn Corp.'s New York office and came away with a much better understanding of her daughter's career. She was back at LinkedIn again Thursday for its second annual "Bring In Your Parents Day," joining thousands of parents at companies around the globe in an event that gives adult children a rare opportunity to

their kids by letting them tag along at work may be confused about what their now-adult children do.

"The first reaction when you hear about this is, 'Really, bring your parents to work? Is that really something you should be doing?'" says LinkedIn Corp. CEO Jeff Weiner. But it makes sense, he says, "once you have done it and see how meaningful it is. It helps us all speak a common language in terms of how the world is working today."

Margie Sisk, a human resources specialist at an amusement park, remembers bringing her daughter Riley on a "Take Your

work. Everything here is so incredible that now I am sitting here wondering how I could get a job here."

Leo Burnett North America CEO Rich Stoddart expects many of the roughly 200 fathers and mothers attending the Chicago advertising agency's event to be startled by what they see and hear. He is confident the visit will cast ad agencies in a new light, especially among parents whose perceptions have been shaped by the "Mad Men" television series set in the 1960s or the 1956 film, "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit."

"They are going to collide

bringing for the past nine years to help make work more fun.

Bill Fernandez, who spent 40 years working in the auto industry, thought he might have come to the wrong place when he and his wife Hazel arrived at LinkedIn's headquarters Thursday morning to be chaperoned by their daughter, Robyn, a product consultant for the company.

"We saw one guy walking around in Bermuda shorts and thongs," Fernandez, 72, marveled. "He looked more like he was ready for a day in the park than to go to work."

Joe Hirz, 65, was pleasant-